Bengaluru Wednesday, April 8, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 97 ₹7

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Adani moves US court seeking dismissal of SEC fraud case

Says case falls outside the US jurisdiction and fails to establish wrongdoing

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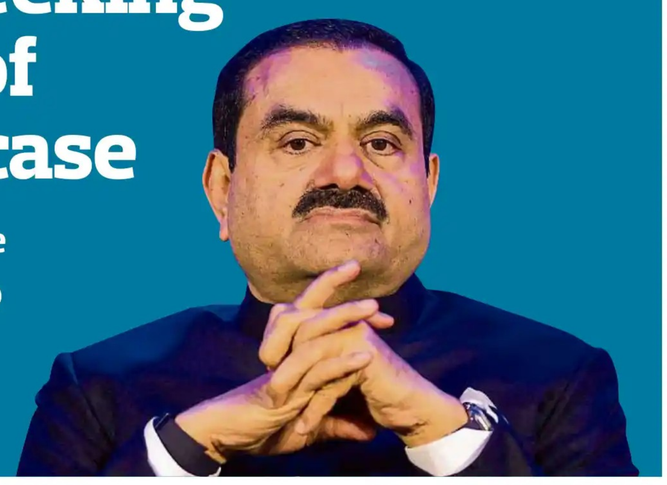

'Whole civilisation will die': Trump tells defiant Iran

DEADLINE LOOMS: Tehran says will hit Gulf infra

DUBAI/WASHINGTON, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump threatened that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" as Iran showed no sign of accepting his ultimatum to open the Strait of Hormuz by Tuesday evening, Washington time.

Trump has given Iran until 8 pm in Washington — 3.30 am in Tehran — to end its blockade of Gulf oil or see the US destroy every bridge and power plant in Iran. Iran says it would retaliate against US allies in the Gulf, whose desert cities would be uninhabitable without power or water.

As the clock ticked down on Trump's deadline, strikes on Iran intensified, hitting railway and road bridges, an airport and a petrochemical plant.

"A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Trump wrote on his Truth Social website, in a statement directed at a nation that takes pride in being one of the earliest centres of civilisation.

"However, now that we have Complete and Total Regime Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalised minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen, WHO KNOWS? We will find out tonight, one of the most important moments in the long and complex history of the World."

Iran responded by declaring it would no longer hold back from hitting its Gulf neighbours' infrastructure, and claimed to have carried out fresh strikes on a ship in the Gulf and a huge Saudi petrochemical complex.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that Tehran would "deprive America and its allies in the region of oil and gas for years".

▸ Iran, Page 8

Russia, China veto UN move, Page 15

GULF ON BRINK

- At least **two bridges** and a **highway** in Iran hit hours ahead of Trump's deadline
- US-Israeli strikes hit **Iranian oil hub of Kharg island.** US media says only military sites hit
- Revolutionary Guards threatens to deprive the US and its allies of oil and gas if US crosses **"red lines"**
- **Qatar** warns the war is close to threshold where it cannot be controlled
- **Iran strikes a ship in the Gulf, a huge Saudi petrochemical complex**
- Traffic across **King Fahd Bridge,** connecting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, temporarily closed

People clear rubble of a synagogue that was destroyed in a US-Israeli strike, in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday. REUTERS

> Now that we have Complete and Total Regime Change, where different, smarter, and less radicalised minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen.
>
> **Donald Trump,** US President

India issues urgent advisory

As the crisis escalated, India has advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours. The Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors and strictly avoid military facilities, power infrastructure and the upper floors of buildings.

Details on Page 12

Iran urges human chains to protect power plants from US strikes Page 15

Manipur on boil again after bomb attack kills two kids

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Valley districts of Manipur slipped back into turmoil on Tuesday after two children of a BSF jawan were killed in their sleep in a bomb attack, leading to a violent protest during which two more persons were killed and five injured when security forces fired on the agitators.

Police said the bomb attack around 1 am, allegedly by the Kukis, targeted the house of Mangalngamba Oinam, a BSF jawan posted in Bihar, at Tronglaobi village in the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district. It killed the jawan's five-year-old son and a five-month baby daughter on the spot while leaving his wife seriously injured. The Kuki forums, however, denied their involvement in the attack.

According to local residents, a suspected projectile struck the house, causing a powerful explosion that instantly claimed the lives of the two children. The blast damaged the house and left nearby residents in a state of shock.

People block a road in protest after two children were killed in a bomb attack in Manipur on Tuesday. PTI

Bishnupur shares a boundary with Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district and has remained under the watch of security forces since the Meitei-Kuki conflict started in May 2023. The killing of the children angered locals, who tried to storm into the Moirang police station and also set fire to several vehicles belonging to a CRPF camp at Moirang.

As the protest turned violent, the CRPF personnel opened fire in which seven people were wounded. Two of them succumbed to their injuries, Home Minister Konthoujam Govindas Singh told reporters in Imphal.

The protesters suspected the involvement of Kukis and questioned why the forces failed to protect the civilians.

▸ Manipur, Page 8

Can't treat women untouchable for 3 days: SC judge

Allowing women entry in Sabarimala wrong, says Centre

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A woman cannot be treated as "untouchable" for three days in a month and then cease to be untouchable on the fourth day, Supreme Court judge BV Nagarathna said on Tuesday.

Her remark came when the nine-judge bench, led by CJI Surya Kant, was hearing arguments on petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including Kerala's Sabarimala temple, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

Opening the arguments for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended that courts cannot narrowly define "religious denominations" and "essential religious practices" as done in the September 2018 Sabarimala judgment. He maintained the judgment was wrong.

Mehta stated that an opinion in the Sabarimala judgment holds that Article 17 applies to women. "You are treating women as untouchable, that is the one opinion. That is something I have a strong exception to. India is not that patriarchal or a gender-stereotypical society, as the West understands."

"Sometimes that is the problem," he said.

Key observations

- Article 17 in the context of Sabarimala, I don't know how it can be argued. Speaking as a woman, there can't be a three-day untouchability and on the fourth day, there is no untouchability, said Justice Nagarathna
- Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta stated that he has strong objection to an observation in the 2018 Sabarimala judgment that the exclusion of women from the temple was a form of 'untouchability'
- Lord Ayyappa temples across the country and the world are open to women of all ages. It is only one temple that has this restriction. It is a sui generis case, Mehta said

Justice Nagarathna said untouchability has its own history and Article 17 was made a fundamental right to overcome that. "Untouchability in the context of Sabarimala, I do not know how it would be argued," she said.

Mehta said, "It can never be justified on the grounds of untouchability, and I am stating that directly."

"Speaking as a woman, I can say there cannot be three-day untouchability every month and on the fourth day, there is no untouchability. The other aspect is the main question. Article 17 cannot apply for three days and on the fourth day, there is no untouchability."

▸ Temple entry, Page 8

Bengal SIR

Nearly 91 lakh names deleted from poll rolls

Nearly 91 lakh names have been removed from the electoral rolls in West Bengal following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), according to data released by the Election Commission. The poll panel published the last supplementary voter list late on Monday night. The commission followed it up by releasing early on Tuesday the data about the deletion of voters following the disposal of the cases that went through the adjudication process.

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Kali Tiger Reserve

663 sq km around KTR declared ESZ

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a draft notification declaring 663 sq km area around the Kali Tiger Reserve in Uttara Kannada district as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). The ministry has invited stake holders comments for a period of 60 days, said the notification from the government. The area extending up to 10 km from the boundary of the tiger reserve has been identified as the ESZ.

P 8

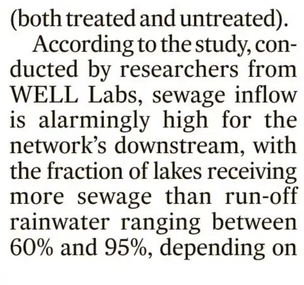
Sewage replaces rain as main water source for many lakes in Hebbal-Nagavara Valley

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new study has revealed that sewage has replaced rainfall as the dominant water source in about 30% of the 44 lakes in the Hebbal-Nagavara Valley.

These 44 waterbodies form a part of a network of lakes, with each of them emptying into the next one. While the lakes in the upstream mostly received monsoon runoffs, those in the downstream were exposed to an influx of sewage (both treated and untreated).



According to the study, conducted by researchers from WELL Labs, sewage inflow is alarmingly high for the network's downstream, with the fraction of lakes receiving more sewage than run-off rainwater ranging between 60% and 95%, depending on whether it is a wet or dry year.

The study also tested a number of interventions that the GBA and the earlier BBMP put in place at the lakes, and the results showed that interventions that work well for one lake may fail for another.

From installation of sluice gates to diversion channels, various interventions were assessed and the results suggested that restoration efforts focused only on a single high-profile lake are insufficient without a system-wide perspective.

Related report, Page 2

Anant Ambani Announces Rs 6 Crore Temple Donations, Rs 12 Crore for Rajarajeshwara Temple Renovation

Additional Support for Guruvayur Elephant Welfare Includes restoration of the historic East Gopuram and initiatives for humane, modern care of temple elephants

MUMBAI, APRIL 7, 2026: Shri Anant Ambani, Executive Director of Reliance Industries Limited, visited two of Kerala's most revered temples—the Rajarajeshwara Temple and the Guruvayur Temple—where he announced Rs 6 crore in donations (Rs 3 crore each to the two temples), a Rs 12 crore commitment for the comprehensive renovation of the Rajarajeshwara Temple, including the restoration of its historic East Gopuram, and additional support for elephant welfare initiatives at Guruvayur.

During his visit to the historic Rajarajeshwara Temple in Taliparamba on April 2 at around 8 PM, Shri Anant Ambani made traditional offerings, including Ponnumkudam, Pattam, Thaali, Neyyamrutu, and performed Ashwamedha Namaskaram.
He also handed over a cheque of Rs 3 crore towards ongoing renovation efforts.

As part of his broader Rs 12 crore commitment, Shri Anant Ambani pledged support for the restoration of the East Gopuram, a structure of immense aesthetic and archaeological significance believed to be as ancient as the temple itself. Having remained in a state of disrepair for over two centuries, its restoration marks a significant moment for devotees and temple authorities. The committed funds will also support enhanced parking and infrastructure facilities to improve the overall experience for pilgrims.

Shri Anant Ambani was accompanied by close associates and was received with traditional honours by temple authorities. Among those present were TTK Devaswom President Shri T. P. Vinod Kumar, Executive Officer Shri K. P. Vinayan, Chief Priest Shri E. P. Kuberan Namboothiri, and members of the Devaswom Board.

Earlier in the day, at around 5 PM, Shri Anant Ambani visited the Guruvayur Temple, where he offered prayers to Lord Guruvayurappan and donated ₹3 crore to the temple trust.

In line with his deep commitment to animal care and conservation through Vantara, Shri Anant Ambani also expressed his intent to support initiatives for the welfare of temple elephants at Guruvayur. These include the development of a dedicated elephant hospital, a chain-free shelter, and modern infrastructure designed to ensure humane, dignified, and scientific care for elephants associated with temple traditions.

At Guruvayur, he was received by Devaswom Chairman Shri A. V. Gopinath and other officials, and was honoured with traditional mementos and prasadam. Senior officials from the Devaswom and Jeevadhan departments were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Anant Ambani said: "India's spiritual traditions are not merely places of worship—they are living institutions that nurture faith, community, compassion, and our deep connection with nature. It is our collective responsibility to preserve and strengthen this sacred heritage for future generations. Through these initiatives, and through our work at Vantara, we seek to serve with humility—by enhancing the experience of devotees, while ensuring that the animals who are an integral part of our traditions are cared for with the utmost dignity, compassion, and scientific attention."

Shri Anant Ambani's contributions reflect a broader vision rooted in India's timeless spiritual ethos—where faith, service, compassion, and harmony with nature are deeply intertwined. By supporting temple infrastructure, enabling the restoration of sacred heritage structures, enhancing the experience of devotees, and advancing the welfare of temple animals, these initiatives seek to preserve and strengthen the living traditions that form the bedrock of India's civilizational heritage.

Hebbal Lake. DH FILE PHOTO

Nagavara Lake. DH FILE PHOTO

Sewage dominates lakes in Hebbal-Nagavara Valley: Study

Over 60% of downstream lakes are primarily sewage-fed

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sewage, not rainwater, now fills a majority of lakes downstream of the Hebbal-Nagavara Valley, a study of 44 interconnected lakes has found.

Researchers said during dry years, nearly 95% of downstream lakes depend mainly on sewage, while even in wet years, about 62% receive more sewage than rainwater runoff.

Many lakes that once filled during the monsoon and dried in the summer have turned perennial, sustained by a steady flow of domestic wastewater. Upstream lakes, however, receive less sewage.

"Upstream lakes, typically on the city's outskirts where land is less developed, are still largely fed by monsoon runoff. Their water levels rise and fall with the rains, making them well suited to absorb flood surges and support seasonal ecosystems. Downstream lakes, by contrast, reflect the accumulated characteristics of everything upstream — and in Bengaluru, that means a steady diet of sewage," the research said.

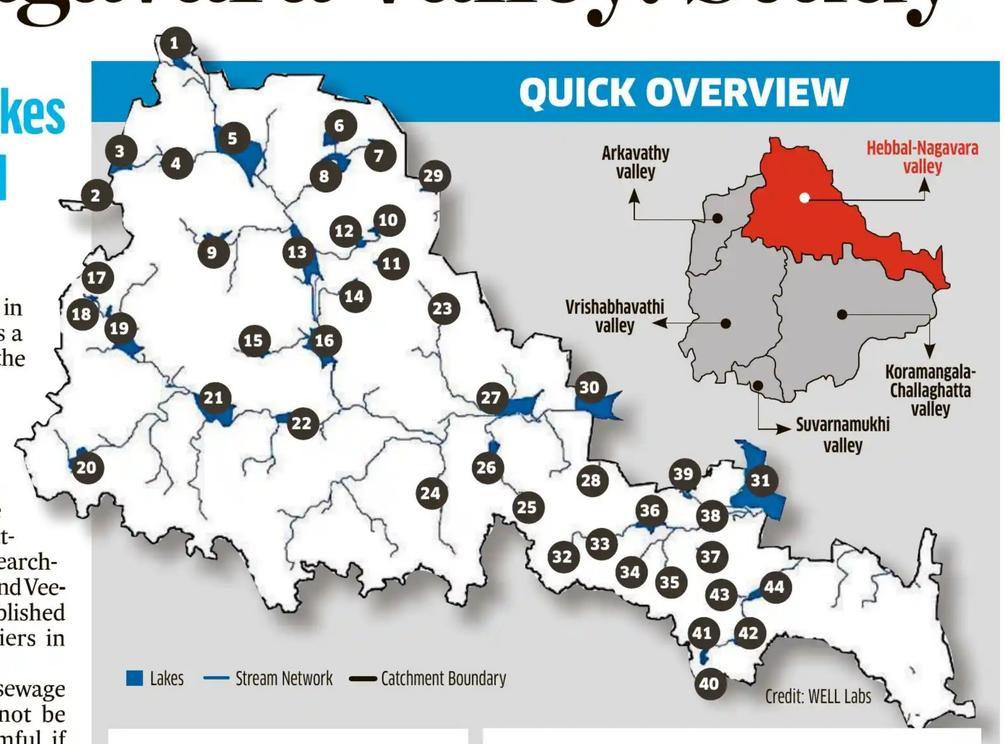
The study, 'Cascading Urban Lakes: How Spatial, Temporal, and Anthropogenic Characteristics Control Lake Behaviour', was conducted by WELL Labs researchers Rashmi Kulranjan and Veena Srinivasan, and published in the journal 'Frontiers in Water'.

Rashmi said treated sewage inflow may not be entirely harmful if managed carefully.

"Entry of untreated sewage is not acceptable. But pumping in treated sewage water may help keep the lakes full and replenish groundwater. However, it is important to determine which lakes are suitable for it.

"Lakes filled with sewage water cannot act as flood mitigation zones and hence, it is crucial to ensure that sewage flow is controlled at lakes that are vital in preventing floods," Rashmi said.

> Entry of untreated sewage is not acceptable. But pumping in treated sewage water may help keep the lakes full and replenish groundwater. However, it is important to determine which lakes are suitable for it.
>
> **– Rashmi Kulranjan, Researcher at WELL Labs**



Diversion drains leave some lakes dry

Of the 44 lakes in the Hebbal-Nagavara Valley, 13 have engineered diversion drains that route dry-season sewage around the lake, allowing inflow only during heavy rains.

While intended to prevent pollution, this has left several lakes dry.

"While well intentioned, these drains mean some lakes now receive water only during peak rainfall events. Cut off from a constant sewage supply and with no other substantial inflow, they have become nearly perennially dry," the research said.

GBA measures do not suit all lakes

From diversion channels to sluice gates, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and earlier, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have introduced measures to improve lake health and prevent floods. The study found that interventions effective for one lake may fail in another.

"Sluice gates that drain lake volume before the monsoon were most effective upstream, creating buffer space for floodwaters before storms arrive. But for downstream lakes constantly replenished by sewage, sluice drainage offers little benefit; diverting treated sewage flows proves far more effective," the research said.

GBA eyes Rs 1,767-cr revenue, leans on govt support

Key city projects to shape GBA's first full fiscal year

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) embarks on its first full financial year, it has projected revenue of Rs 1,767 crore for 2026–27, with a substantial portion expected to come from government grants, external loans, and contributions from the city's five corporations.

The projections indicate that, beyond functioning as an urban planner and coordinator, the GBA will also play a key role in implementing select projects.

While the body has outlined multiple internal revenue streams—such as betterment fees, scrutiny charges, and levies linked to land use and building approvals — these are expected to contribute less than 10% of its projected annual expenditure, pegged at Rs 1,767.55 crore.

To establish its relevance, the GBA has retained responsibility for implementing a Rs 2,000-crore flood-mitigation programme funded by the World Bank. The project includes construction of retaining walls along rajakaluves, rejuvenation of lakes, and other related works. The authority aims to complete works worth Rs 500 crore by the end of the current financial year.

Another key initiative is a Rs 238-crore project funded under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. This includes rejuvenation of lakes such as Nagawara and Hebbal, along with reconstruction of drains in flood-prone areas, including Nayandahalli, Rachenahalli Road, Ulsoor, Sarjapur Main Road, Spice Garden, and Hoodi.

GBA budget 2026–27
Revenue: **Rs 1,767.91 crore**
Expenditure: **Rs 1,767.55 crore**

Both projects are currently at various stages of implementation.

The GBA's budget also indicates that it has taken on responsibilities related to infrastructure and basic facilities in urban primary health centres (UPHCs) and maternity hospitals, along with IT-related works.

Accordingly, Rs 175 crore has been allocated to the health sector and Rs 40 crore to digital infrastructure.

In addition, a portion of the budget will be used to meet expenses related to salaries, pensions, and establishment costs.

Overlap concerns

In September last year, the state government constituted the GBA as an apex body through new legislation to supervise development works in the Greater Bengaluru Area.

However, some experts believe the authority is playing a dual role — partly duplicating the functions of the Urban Development Department (UDD) while also encroaching on the mandate of municipal corporations.

Moreover, the GBA now holds planning powers for the Greater Bengaluru Area, a role previously handled by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

V Ravichandar, a member of the Brand Bengaluru committee, which recommended the creation of the GBA, said the authority should play a stronger role in coordinating among parastatal agencies such as Namma Metro, BWSSB, and BSWML.

"The funds to different agencies must be routed through the GBA for better planning of the city. This is not happening now. Without such financial authority, the GBA may gradually lose relevance, and parastatal agencies may not align with its directives"

Banners along the Hebbal flyover. DH FILE PHOTO

April 13 deadline to legalise hoardings

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to regularise hoardings and LED advertisement boards, provided advertisers pay the required fees under the newly introduced Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules, 2025.

Officials said the one-time opportunity window will close on April 13.

According to a public notice, advertisers who own legacy hoardings and LED self-advertisement billboards — currently considered illegal — can convert them into commercial billboards under the new scheme.

Advertisers can approach either their respective city corporation offices or the GBA head office to apply, the notice states.

Some advertisers have already opted for the scheme, as legacy hoardings—many of which had remained without advertisements for years due to a city-wide ban—have started displaying ads again in recent weeks.

While the scheme is expected to generate revenue for civic bodies, the city is likely to be flooded with billboards in the coming days.

East Corpn chief directs officials to expedite land acquisition

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh on Tuesday directed officials to complete land acquisition and technical procedures within the stipulated timeline for the construction of service roads along the storm water drain (SWD) buffer zone.

DS Ramesh

Chairing a review meeting, Ramesh emphasised that the project is crucial to addressing traffic congestion within the corporation limits.

"Under a mobility-oriented plan, it is proposed to construct a service road of approximately 18 km along the rajakaluve buffer zone, extending from the Bellandur Lake outlet to Varthur Lake Kodi (Virginia Mall stretch). The project aims to develop 15-metre-wide roads on both sides of the drain," a statement issued by the corporation said.

The project is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion, expand the road network, prevent encroachments along rajakaluves, and strengthen urban infrastructure.

HPV vaccination drive for adolescent girls

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Tuesday launched a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for adolescent girls as part of efforts to curb cervical cancer, one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths among women in India.

The disease, largely caused by HPV infection, is preventable through timely vaccination. Officials said the campaign aligns with the World Health Organisation's global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer, which aims to vaccinate 90% of girls by the age of 14 by 2030. In line with this goal, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been providing the HPV vaccine free of cost since February 28.

Under the programme, girls aged 14 to 15 can receive the vaccine at all government hospitals and health centres across the GBA jurisdiction. The authority has set a target to vaccinate approximately 1.18 lakh girls across 369 wards.

Over 2,500 girls vaccinated safely in the GBA limits, with zero reported side effects. PHOTO: GBA

To support the rollout, 146 vaccination points — including Urban Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, and government hospitals — have been equipped with cold chain facilities. Officials said over 2,500 girls had been vaccinated as of early February, with no adverse effects reported.

WATERWAY WOES

Bengaluru's K100 Citizens' Waterway Project, envisioned as a vibrant public space, continues to suffer from poor maintenance. Despite heavy investments to revive the rajakaluve, the BWSSB has yet to address the root causes, letting sewage flow across multiple points. Even the chief secretary has raised concerns, but action remains pending. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

11 arrested for black marketing IPL tickets outside stadium

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cubbon Park police have busted a black marketing racket involving Indian Premier League (IPL) match tickets, arresting 11 people and seizing tickets worth Rs 4.53 lakh.

A senior police officer said the illegal sales were linked to the high-demand match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

Police also recovered 28 match tickets and seven mobile phones from the accused.

Acting on a tip-off, police posed as buyers near the stadium and caught the accused red-handed.

Investigations revealed that they had purchased tickets online and resold them at inflated prices, ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000.

The accused also used social media platforms to lure potential buyers by posting links to the tickets, police officers said.

Woman advocate molested in pub

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 24-year-old woman advocate was allegedly molested inside a pub in Indiranagar on Sunday, with bouncers intervening and alerting police.

The victim had gone to the pub on 80 Feet Road with two male friends. One of them allegedly approached her from behind and touched her inappropriately. Despite being warned, he continued his misconduct inside the pub.

She began shouting at him, prompting the pub's bouncers to intervene and alert the police. Realising police action was imminent, the accused fled the spot in a hired cab.

Jeevan Bima Nagar police have registered a case and launched a search for the suspect, identified as Pranav, aged 20 years. The incident was captured on CCTV.

Drug racket busted; narcotics worth Rs 27.42 cr seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: City police have arrested eight people, including a foreign national, and seized drugs worth Rs 27.42 crore.

Based on a tip-off, police teams found that narcotic substances such as MDMA, ganja, and cocaine were being sold across Hebbagodi, Yelahanka New Town, Mico Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Bagalur, and Banaswadi police limits.

Hebbagodi police arrested a Nigerian national involved in drug peddling networks for several years. The accused, identified as Emmanuel Sopulu, 41, came to the city in 2014 on a business visa and supplied drugs to local peddlers.

REGULATORY RED FLAG

Concerns raised over Centre's move to amend Insecticides Rules

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union government's draft notification, Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2026, raises serious constitutional concerns regarding both the procedure adopted for introducing major changes and the substance of the proposed amendments, which could curtail state powers and weaken regulatory oversight, public policy expert Donthi Narasimha Reddy has said.

In his written objection to the draft, notified on March 18, Reddy questioned whether amendments of such magnitude, including the proposal for a single licence per insecticide and multi-location licensing, could be implemented through subordinate legislation via a gazette notification.

He argued that these changes would dismantle the federal structure of pesticide regulation by eliminating the product-specific and location-specific licensing regime under which states exercised their own regulatory authority.

According to him, the draft notification "exceeds" the delegated rule-making powers under Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, and therefore, requires a Parliamentary amendment to the parent Act.

Reddy also expressed concern that the amendments would curtail the powers of states, some of which have used existing provisions to ban toxic insecticides.

He further noted that the proposal to replace individual dealer licensing with a corporate, multi-location single licence would remove a key enforcement mechanism available to district agricultural officers for monitoring product quality and legality at the point of sale. This, he warned, could facilitate the proliferation of spurious insecticides.

The Union government's draft Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2026 sparks serious constitutional concerns. FILE PHOTO

> **While registration serves as the scientific gatekeeping mechanism, licensing functions as the market-level control, says a public policy expert**

Yavatmal deaths

"Farming communities in Vidarbha, already scarred by the 2017 Yavatmal pesticide poisoning deaths, stand to be among the most severely affected," he added.

Additionally, Reddy criticised the proposal to cap the licensing fee at Rs 7,500, irrespective of the toxicity of products or the number of locations, calling it grossly disproportionate to the potential public health and environmental risks associated with insecticide use.

Endosulfan tragedy

He pointed out that the endosulfan tragedy in Kerala alone led to rehabilitation expenditures exceeding Rs 500 crore.

Finally, he cautioned that the amendments would erode the integrity of the registration–licensing framework.

While registration serves as the scientific gatekeeping mechanism, licensing functions as the market-level control. The proposed single-licence system, he argued, would completely sever this critical link.

CBC 22201/13/0004/2627
Committed to
Nari Shakti Vandan
32+ crore of us empowered by Jan Dhan accounts
₹47,000+ crore Stand-Up India loans giving new strength to our dreams
10+ crore of us now self-reliant through 90+ lakh SHGs
Government of Bharat

The seized goods include of approximately 3.356 kilograms of high-purity gold, ingeniously concealed in paste form within capsule-shaped packets, valued at around Rs 5 crore. PHOTO: DRI

DRI busts int'l gold smuggling syndicate at B'luru airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Bengaluru Zonal Unit, successfully busted a major international gold smuggling syndicate operating through Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL) here.

Acting on precise and actionable intelligence, DRI officers executed a well-coordinated surveillance operation at Terminal-2, leading to the interception of a sophisticated smuggling network involving Bangladeshi nationals in active collusion with local facilitators.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 3.356 kg of high-purity gold, ingeniously concealed in paste form within capsule-shaped packets, valued at around Rs 5 crore.

Investigations revealed a highly organised and clandestine modus operandi, wherein carriers arriving from abroad deliberately chose transit routes through Bengaluru with extended layovers to facilitate covert transfer of contraband within airport premises.

The gold was concealed on the body and transferred using a pre-arranged passcode system inside sensitive areas such as washrooms, smoking zones, thereby bypassing customs scrutiny.

The syndicate had infiltrated the airport ecosystem, with the involvement of an insider who misused authorised access to restricted zones to receive and smuggle out the contraband. The entire operation was coordinated through encrypted communication channels, including coded messages and disappearing chats.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the network is part of a larger cross-border smuggling syndicate, involving foreign operatives — suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals — working in tandem with domestic handlers and facilitators.

Five persons have been arrested in connection with the case. Further investigation is underway.

Study backs carbon credits for farmers in state

5,476 farming households in 10 districts evaluated

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Farmers in Karnataka adopting sustainable agricultural practices could be rewarded through carbon credits, a government-backed study has said, but a top minister has flagged hurdles in turning the idea into reality.

The study, in which the Institute for Social & Economic Change (ISEC) evaluated the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), covered 5,476 farming households in 10 districts and seven years of secondary data.

The study, which covered the 2014-2020 period, farmers reported a reduction in fertiliser usage, savings on pesticide costs, efficient water use and an increase in yield. The study has asked the government to introduce a policy framework to incentivise farmers with carbon credits.

"This innovative approach recognises and rewards farmers for their contribution to carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reduction through practices aligned with environmental conservation," the study said.

After NFSM, the amount of fertiliser used per acre for paddy cultivation reduced from 100 kg to 63 kg. Similarly, the cost of pesticides went down from Rs 1,807 to Rs 1,297. Similar results were found for pulses and nutri-cereals (millet).

India is yet to develop a full-fledged carbon credits market. The Punjab government is piloting a carbon credits programme in five districts. In Uttar Pradesh, the government there and IIT Roorkee have announced a carbon credits scheme that may give farmers an additional income of Rs 5,000-8,000 per hectare.

Private companies like Grow Indigo, Auri Grow India and Varaha are already working on carbon credits. In Karnataka, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched a pilot carbon credits programme for mango farmers in Koppal last year.

MAJOR FINDINGS

Paddy
- Pesticide costs down **28%**
- Fertiliser use down **37%**

Pulses
- Pesticide costs down **41-80%**
- Fertiliser use down **44-60%**

Coarse cereals
- Production cost fell **28.7%**
- Pesticide costs down **50%**

Oilseeds
- Pesticide use down **49%** (groundnut) and **65%** (soybean)
- Fertiliser use down **55%.**

Nutri-cereals
- Pesticide costs down **35-46%**
- Fertiliser use down **38-44%**

What are carbon credits?

Carbon credits are financial rewards for reducing or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. One credit equals one tonne of carbon saved or absorbed. Farmers can earn these credits by adopting sustainable agricultural practices. These credits can be monetised by selling them to industries looking to offset their pollution.

"We understand the concept, but operationalising it may be a challenge. This requires more discussion," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *DH*.

"We can have a pilot programme. But to have scalability and traceability, how do you quantify an individual farmer's contribution? How does one determine what's the value to be derived? And, how do you get someone to buy these credits?" Gowda, a former agriculture minister, said.

Heat, dehydration, hormones: Why vertigo cases are spiralling this summer

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A steady rise in seasonal vertigo cases has been reported across several Bengaluru hospitals, with doctors linking it to heat stress and dehydration.

Doctors say summer conditions often trigger orthostatic symptoms and worsen pre-existing disorders, leading to increased complaints of dizziness and imbalance.

Dr Suryanarayana Sharma PM, Senior Consultant Neurologist and Stroke Specialist Academic Advisor at a private hospital, told *DH*, "A rise in Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV) symptoms are probably caused by endolymph dynamics being impacted by relative dehydration. More non-specific dizziness syndromes, particularly in younger people exposed to heat and greater frequency of orthostatic intolerance that mimics vertigo, has also been reported."

He said orthostatic dizziness has become more prevalent among younger women.

"Women experience a greater load of symptoms due to hormonal considerations, migraine vulnerability, lower body mass, anaemia, pregnancy, and lower baseline blood pressure," said Dr Sharma.

Doctors say weather may not directly cause vertigo, but can surface or worsen symptoms.

Dr Basavaraj S Kumbar, Consultant, Internal Medicine, said, "The weather changes triggers vertigo. The inner ear fluid controlling the balance gets disrupted due to change in atmospheric pressure, humidity and temperature variations. The combination of hot weather, dehydration and seasonal viral infections create conditions that lead to dizziness and balance issues."

Dizziness, one of the most common symptoms of vertigo, is often mistaken for low blood pressure.

Doctors also warn that vertigo may signal serious neurological conditions such as stroke.

Dr Lokesh B, Senior Consultant, Neurology, said, "Especially when it is sudden and severe, and associated with symptoms like difficulty in speaking, weakness on one side of the body, double vision, or trouble walking, it is usually a stroke. However, such cases can sometimes be missed in the early stage considering it as vertigo."

In last 4 years, state sees over 20k drugs-related cases

B'luru tops the list followed by M'luru and Shivamogga

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Karnataka is also witnessing the manufacturing and cultivation of banned substances.

Karnataka, over the last four years, has registered over 20,160 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

While Bengaluru continues to register the highest number of drug haul cases in the state, what is worrying police officials is the emergence of Mangaluru, Shivamogga, and Mysuru as other major centres for drug deals.

Between 2023 and 2026, Bengaluru registered 6,743 cases under the NDPS Act, while Mangaluru city reported 2,665 cases, followed by Shivamogga (1,290) and Mysuru (722 cases). There is not a single district or city police commissionerate in the state that hasn't reported a drug case during this period.

Sources in the police department informed *DH* that while there is no single syndicate or network operating in the state supplying drugs, multiple forms of drugs are being brought into the state from African countries via Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and the northeastern states.

Ganja cultivation

Apart from this, the state is also witnessing the manufacturing and cultivation of banned substances. Ganja is the most common form of substance abuse being cultivated in the state. Since 2023, the police have booked cases against 165 growers/manufacturers and 5,366 dealers.

"Among the two types of drugs: natural and synthetic, the consumption of chemically combined drugs in the state is comparatively low," said a senior officer in Bengaluru who was part of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF). He added that a majority of synthetic drugs are illegally brought into the state, and recent incidents of police from other states raiding and arresting drug manufacturers in Mysuru and other parts are one-off incidents.

He also noted that educational hubs are becoming new centres for drug sales.

The port city of Mangaluru has emerged as the city with the second-highest number of cases in the state. Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy said the higher number of reported cases is due to increased vigilance by the department.

"There is no spike in drug cases in Mangaluru city. We have started acting tough against violators. More than 150 drug dealers are in police custody," he said, adding that the department has recently visited multiple colleges and hostels to monitor drug consumption.

He added that the commissionerate has also started a helpline to report the sale and consumption of drugs at educational institutions.

Data from the Home Department states that between 2023 and 2025, the police conducted 58,010 awareness workshops at educational institutions across Karnataka.

Construction worker held for killing his friend

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hebbagodi police arrested a 30-year-old construction labourer who is accused of murdering his friend because he allegedly wanted to have an affair with the victim's wife.

The accused has been identified as Basudev Mallik, a native of Odisha. He is accused of killing Sunil Nayak (42), a daily wage worker, at an under-construction site.

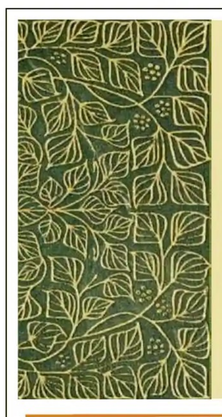
According to the police, Mallik allegedly lured Nayak on March 25 on the pretext of consuming alcohol. After getting him heavily intoxicated, he is said to have murdered him by slitting his throat. The body was then stuffed into a gunny bag and dumped in an isolated area in Yarandahalli.

The victim's family found the body the following day and alerted Hebbagodi police.

During the investigation, police found that Nayak was last seen with Mallik. Based on this lead, the accused was taken into custody.

During interrogation, Mallik allegedly confessed, stating that he believed eliminating Nayak would allow him to pursue a relationship with Nayak's wife, Pushpa.

Police clarified that Pushpa was not in a relationship with the accused and have ruled out her involvement in the crime.



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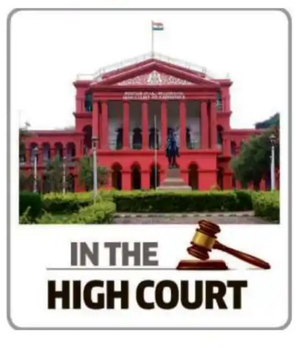
Revenue Act amendment applies only to DCs' original orders, says high court

'Amendments don't apply to revisional orders'

BENGALURU, DHNS



The high court has said that the amendment to section 136(1) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act will be applicable only in respect of the original orders passed under Section 136(3) by the deputy commissioners/special deputy commissioners and not in respect of revisional orders passed by the deputy commissioners/special deputy commissioners.

Justice R Devdas said this while disposing of a batch of petitions filed challenging the Karnataka Land Revenue (Third Amendment) Act, 2024, whereby an additional tier of remedial measures is provided for the resolution of disputes arising out of the Record of Rights.

The state defended the amendment, contending that the appeal/review against the orders of the deputy commissioners to be heard by the Karnataka Revenue Appellate Tribunal will reduce the burden of the High Court.

"No further appeal or revision shall lie to the Tribunal against revisional orders passed under Section 136(3) of the Act. An order passed by the Assistant Commissioner under Section 136(2) of the Act may either be appealable or revisable before the Deputy Commissioner under Section 49(b) or under Section 136(3) of the Act. Option is also available for an aggrieved party to file a revision petition before the Tribunal under Section 56 of the Act, if no appeal or revision is preferred before the Deputy Commissioner in respect of an order passed by the Assistant Commissioner," the court said.

The court said that providing another layer of forum to question the decision of the Deputy Commissioner under Section 136(3) does not overcome the decision of the Full Bench in the Ashok vs State of Karnataka case.

"With great difficulty, the Full Bench laid down the law that, despite an appeal remedy being availed of, nevertheless, a revision before the Deputy Commissioner would still lie under Section 136(3). Under such circumstances, if the State Legislature sought to provide for one more layer of remedial fora, then, without clarifying the position as to whether an appeal would thereafter lie or whether a second revision would lie before the Tribunal, the amending provision could not have been brought in," Justice Devdas said.

Student from Jharkhand jumps to death from hostel bldg

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 19-year-old 2nd-year BTech student died after allegedly jumping from the ninth floor of a hostel building of a private college under Yelahanka new town police station limits on Tuesday.

The deceased is Lakshya Mishra of Ranchi, Jharkhand. According to police, the incident occurred around 3 am. Security personnel heard a loud noise and rushed to the spot only to find him lying in a pool of blood. They alerted the police. The body was shifted to Bowring Hospital for post-mortem. No suicide note was found at the scene.

Police said he was staying in a room with roommate, Anish, who left for his hometown Hyderabad 3 days ago.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grant of Environmental Clearance for Unitech's Residential Apartment & Residential Plots Project, namely, Uniworld Resorts, Bengaluru

The new Management of M/s **Unitech Limited** appointed by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 20.01.2020 is pleased to inform that the **"Proposed Residential Apartment Buildings & Residential Layout"** namely, **Uniworld Resorts** at Survey no. 81/1, 81/2, 83/1(P), 96/2(P), 97/1, 98/1, 98/2(P), 101/1, 101/2, 101/3 & 102/1 in Veerasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District has been granted Environmental Clearance by the MoEF&CC (Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka vide EC Identification No. **EC24C3801KA5522632N** dated 21.01.2026 under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006.

The sanctioned letters are available in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and can also be accessed at their website **https://parivesh.nic.in/** and Unitech Limited website **https://unitechgroup.com/.**

Chief Executive Officer
Unitech Group of Companies

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Mohammad Ali : City's very own knockout machine

Teenage MMA champion's perfect record has propelled him from the city's mean streets onto the global stage

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Meet our own local Mohammad Ali — only this one swapped street fights for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in January 2023. At 14, Ali was pushed to step into the gym and train. "I would get into street fights and had a temper. My father thought it best to channel that aggression into a sport," shares the teenager, who began training under Pavan Kumar, head coach of the Indian national Muay Thai team.

Ali admits the toughest challenge wasn't quitting certain addictions he had picked up along the way, but shifting to a healthier diet. "I have adjusted now," he says, revealing he now sticks to boiled, sugar-free home-cooked meals.

On sharing his name with the legendary boxer Muhammad Ali, the teen says, "It was coincidental. I realised it after my first fight, when people told me my footwork reminded them of the legend." Thrilled, he began focusing more on his footwork. He adds that he looks up to Muhammad Ali and follows his philosophy of "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee".

At 18, Ali clinched the under-51 kg world title in Bangkok at the 21st World Muay Thai Championship, maintaining a win streak of 13 fights. At the Golden Moghkon Championship Amateur Nationals in 2025, he earned the title 'Knockout Machine' with six knockouts.

Known for his feint-to-spinning-kick combo, Ali focuses on defence and has never taken a hit to his face. "My mother gets emotional when I get hit. I don't want her to worry, so I focus on my defence (skills)," he says. Ali is also training in Muay Thai and boxing.

A resident of Kaval Byrasandra, Mohammad Ali clinched the under-51 kg world title in Bangkok in March, maintaining a win streak of 13 fights.

He sharpened his techniques by adding clinches and sweeps to his training. His tougher challenge, however, has been the lack of Olympic recognition for MMA, which means no institutional support. "(At the world championship), while others had physiotherapists, managers, and dietitians, I just had my coach, physiotherapist and teammates," he says, adding that the burden of self-funding remains a challenge.

During his time at his training centre in R T Nagar, Ali also helped train 15-year-old Chirayu S, who went on to win silver in the 14 to 16 age category at the 21st World Muay Thai Championship.

WHAT IS MMA?

It is a full-contact sport that blends striking, wrestling and ground fighting from disciplines like boxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Governed by unified rules, it allows both standing and ground combat to determine dominance.

POPCORN

Helium healing

Looks like helium is in short supply, and that is going to affect MRI scans. Liquid helium is imported, a report says, from Qatar, USA and Australia, and the war has disrupted supplies. The impact? MRI scans could become dearer, or stop altogether. A cynic is looking at the bright side. If patients decide enough is enough and stay away from procedures such as this one, will they just get better medically and financially?

Why more B'lureans are looking outside marriage

Relationship experts cite emotional gaps, work stress and migration as key drivers reshaping how urban couples navigate marriage

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Extramarital relationships are seeing a steady rise in Bengaluru, driven by a mix of work-related exhaustion, emotional disconnection, and the lack of family support systems, say relationship experts.

A recent report by extramarital dating app Gleeden states that Bengaluru is its largest market in India, accounting for about 18% of its 4 million users, ahead of Hyderabad, Delhi, and Mumbai.

Explaining the trend, Sybil Shiddell, country manager (India), says, "The city's cosmopolitan culture, demanding work schedules, and exposure to global ideas contribute to higher usage. Plus, there is a greater acceptance of evolving relationship norms."

Experts point to the pressures of urban life as a key trigger. Clinical psychologist and couple and sex therapist Dr Meghna Singhal says, "Long hours, long commutes, and constant stress leave very little emotional bandwidth. Couples often end up living parallel lives rather than shared, intimate ones." Over time, she adds, this leads to "chronic under-connection", where partners drift apart without any major conflict.

'Away from home'

Bengaluru's large migrant workforce plays a significant role, with many living away from partners due to work, according to the data from the app. This distance, combined with demanding careers, often creates emotional gaps and drives people to seek connections outside their immediate circles, it adds.

Rehabilitation counsellor Nithya J Rao adds that much of the city's population lives away from family and traditional support systems. "There is loneliness, and fewer safe spaces to process it."

At the same time, urban life offers unprecedented opportunities to meet like-minded people. "In a city like Bengaluru, you can find your 'tribe' easily through social spaces and shared interests," she says.

Dr Meghna also points to what she calls "roommate marriages" — "functional, but emotionally disconnected" — driven by a gap between expectations and the skills needed to sustain them.

Gender dynamics

Nationally, Gleeden has about 65% men and 35% women users, with women users growing by 148% in the last two years. Bengaluru accounts for 24% of its female user base in India. "The city's progressive environment, financial independence among women, and awareness of privacy-focused platforms contribute to this," says Sybil.

Psychotherapist Tasneem Nakhoda notes a shift in how men and women engage with relationships. "With greater awareness, women are becoming more attuned to their emotional needs. They are more likely to express what they feel, and seek fulfilment," she says. On the other hand, she says men "may take longer to articulate their needs, which can create communication gaps".

'What ifs' drive them

Psychotherapist Sowmya Puttaraju, with over 25 years of experience, says it is not necessarily the number of extramarital relationships that has increased, but the "admission of it".

With adultery no longer a criminal offence in India, such relationships are increasingly seen as a personal choice rather than a legal transgression.

"A consistent factor is a low tolerance for unhappiness in long-term relationships. This is not always about abuse or conflict, but about routine. When there are no sparks or constant excitement, it is often seen as something being wrong," she says.

Many begin to look outside not because the relationship is broken, but because it feels ordinary. She likens many such interactions to "window shopping". "There is curiosity, the pull of 'what if'. Once the initial phase passes, it also becomes routine."

Age range

Most experts *Metrolife* spoke to say extramarital relationships cut across age groups. App data shows users are largely between 25 and 40, and they are predominantly working professionals from corporate sectors.

However, Sowmya notes these relationships are not confined to any one demographic. "Older individuals may simply be more discreet due to social expectations," she says.

Artistes hail amphitheatre plan at M G Park

Taking the arts to the masses is the need of the hour, they say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Democratising the arts is the need of the hour, and hence, the construction of a performance space on the premises of the under-utilised Mahatma Gandhi Park on M G Road is a step in the right direction, artistes say.

In early March, it was announced that the Central City Corporation had undertaken 'development works' at the park at a cost of Rs 4 crore. "The park will have a 2,000 sq ft amphitheatre, a cottage for a library or museum, and gardens designed in the shape of a charkha," Atif Muhammad, executive chief engineer, Central City Corporation, told *Metrolife*. Currently, the walkway is also being relaid, he added.

The two-acre park, located at the junction of M G Road and Queen's Road and adjoining the Chinnaswamy Stadium, was used for protests at one point, recalled artist and historian Suresh Jayaram. "I'm not sure what its significance was. There is very little information about the park. It has been neglected for a long time," he said. While there is no information on exactly when it was opened, some sources say it was probably in the early 1900s.

Historian Suresh Moona recalled that the park was used for non-violent protests specifically by politicians, "who would sit at the base of the main Gandhi statue, with placards". He noted that a few years ago, there was a call for installing a protective cover around the statue, which was found to be damaged. "However, that idea was dismissed," he shared.

When *Metrolife* visited the park, the walkways had been dug up and the concrete from the once-paved paths had been removed and placed on the side. The fountains and other water features were dry and looked neglected. The park is also equipped with British era lamps and has multiple Gandhi statues.

While artistes welcomed the development, they urged authorities to pay attention to technical aspects like lighting and acoustics. "When we perform outdoors we are constantly interrupted by loud traffic and other factors beyond our control. We have to find a way to amplify the sound of the music," said singer M D Pallavi, who has performed at multiple outdoor venues such as Samsa Bayalu Rangamandira at Ravindra Kalakshetra, Shankaraa on Kanakapura Road and at Indira Gandhi Fountain, Vasanthnagar.

She and Indian classical dancer, Madhu Nataraj, both noted that though performance venues are available, the fees are steep. "Getting people into theatres has become difficult post the pandemic. And I think these kinds of public spaces are the future of performance art, where people can just walk into a performance. This way, we are taking the arts to the masses, rather than waiting for them to come to us," Madhu noted. Ensuring there is some protection from rain and enough parking are important, as are green rooms for performers, and restrooms, she pointed out.

The paving has been dug up and the debris is placed on the side of the walkway at Mahatma Gandhi Park on M G Road. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

EVENTS

Italian showcase

'Icons of Design', an exhibition of select Italian design pieces honoured with the prestigious Compasso d'Oro Award, will be held from April 10 to 12, 10 am onwards, at Science Gallery Bengaluru, Ballari Road. It marks the 10th edition of Italian Design Day in Bengaluru. Entry free.

Queer writing

As part of a panel discussion, authors Unmana and Payal Dhar will discuss 'Queering Indian Genre Fiction: Writing the Books We Wanted to Read' on April 11, 6 pm, at Champaca Bookstore, Vasanthnagar. Entry free. RSVP to champaca.in

Kannada play

'Eshtu Kaadataava Kabbakki', a play exploring the inner turmoil of human beings, will be staged on April 8, 7.30 pm, at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. It is based on multiple stories by Kannada writer Raghavendra Patil. Tickets online.

Fete to remember Raju Ananthaswamy's legacy

TEAM METROLIFE

Singer Ananya Bhat and drummer Manjunath Sattyasheel are organising a Raju Ananthaswamy memorial concert on April 19.

Titled 'Raju: The Legend', the concert is held once every two years to commemorate the legendary singer's birth anniversary. He was born on April 19, 1973.

Both Ananya and Manjunath were students of Raju, and this is their way of paying tribute to their teacher.

Among the singers who will perform are Ananya, M D Pallavi, Ravi Mururu, Mangala Ravi, Ravi Krishnamurthy, Praveen B V, Pradeep B V, Sura Susso, and members of Manju Drums Collectiiv.

Raju Ananthaswamy

Raju Ananthaswamy sang some of the most celebrated songs, such as 'Yenda yedati Kannad padagol' and 'Baduku jataka bandi' from DVG's 'Manku Thimmana Kagga', and bhavageethes like 'Mucchu marey illade', 'Badavanadaru enu priye', and 'Ede thumbi hadidenu'.

The son of Mysore Ananthaswamy, one of the pioneers of bhavageethe, Raju worked in sugama sangeetha (light music) for about 15 years before his untimely demise in 2009. He was only 35.

His rendition of Gopalakrishna Adiga's 'Yaava mohana murali karyithu' for the film 'America America' (1997) remains his most popular film song. He composed music for more than 200 poems.

At the concert, some of Mysore Ananthaswamy's and Raju's most famous songs, including 'Banni harasiri tandeye' and 'Beladingala ratriyali', will be performed. The concert will also include an album release and honorary awards for individuals who have contributed to sugama sangeetha.

'Raju: The Legend' on April 19, 7 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. Tickets online.

CITY MIX

Collection drive for unused books

Youth for Parivarthan is collecting unused or partially used notebooks until April 19. The NGO is also accepting used textbooks and novels. They have set up 13 drop-off points across areas like Jayanagar and Doddanekundi. The unused pages from these notebooks will be recycled into new notebooks, while textbooks and novels will be added to their library at Uttarahalli. Last year, the NGO made over 7,500 new notebooks from the collected material. The initiative is called Recyclothon.

Contact 99805 28701 on WhatsApp.

Trekking soon? Don't let your guard down

Following the rescue at Tadiandamol peak, experts share tips for safe outdoor experiences

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Preparedness is non-negotiable on any forest trail, however simple or familiar it may be, say trekking experts. Their advice follows a recent incident in which a woman from Kerala went missing while descending Tadiandamol, a sought-after peak in Kodagu.

After four days of intensive search, she was found safe by members of the Kudiya community. She survived on water from a stream as she had carried no food, and her phone had run out of battery.

Naresh Raju of Outdoors Beckon says there is always some risk in being out in nature. He explains, "A forest trail can look different under different weather conditions. And once you stray from the main trail and look back, everything starts to look the same, and it gets confusing." His advice: avoid going solo on unfamiliar trails, and stay aware of your route. To stay prepared always, carry a whistle, a headlamp, and a fully charged power bank, along with water and food such as dry fruits.

Indiahikes conducts workshops on reading and using paper maps as well as pre-downloaded maps offline.

Offline maps

Upayan Chatterjee of Indiahikes urges trekkers to download offline maps before hitting the trail. He believes this simple step can prevent 95% of trekking mishaps. "Keep apps like Gaia GPS or OsmAnd handy to access maps without the Internet. Next, download the map of your specific trail. The maps of Karnataka trails are available for free on websites like aranyavihaara.karnataka.gov.in, and indiahikes.com (under the 'Documented Treks' tab). For the Himalayan trails, hiking.waymarkedtrails.org is a great resource," he says. Offline maps may help you find your way back if you veer off.

Regular headcounts

Even in groups, trekkers can lose their way. "This can happen when a dense forest opens into a clearing, and trekkers are unsure which direction to head next," says Chatterjee. He recommends taking regular headcounts. Trekkers should maintain visual contact with at least one other person or the group leader at all times, he adds.

Survival tips

If you get lost, do not panic and move haphazardly because it may take you farther from the main trail, says Raju. Instead, stay close to where you are and keep calling out for help. If it starts getting dark, look for safe shelter, such as a large rock face, a small cave, or a big tree. While there is daylight, move to a higher point, such as a rocky outcrop, and call for help. This increases your chances of being spotted from a distance and helps you get a sense of your surroundings.

Vasumathi Srinivasan of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association advises heading towards possible signs of human presence. Listen for the sound of a stream or follow patches of grass, as they may indicate a water source nearby. She recalls a trek to Kudremukh where her group got separated from another and had to sleep in the open. The next morning, both groups followed the "blades of grass" and "the trickle of water" they spotted from their respective locations and reunited near a pond.

Similarly, following electric poles may lead you to a settlement. Vasumathi learnt this tip from an army guide, and it once helped her and an expedition she was part of reach Khardung La Pass in Ladakh.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

World Water Day: BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V to attend; Bangalore Water Board Engineers Association; Dr BR Ambedkar School of Economics University, Chandra Layout, Jnanabharathi; 10.30 am.

'Stop the War' demonstration: Theme 'Establish Peace–Save the Earth'; Samana Manaskara Vedike; Purabhavana, JC Road; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Jain University Short Film Festival–2026: Jain Deemed to be University; Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy, Banashankari 2nd Phase; 9 am.

Samarthya 2026: Rizwan Arshad to attend; Government Ramnarayan Chellaram College of Commerce and Management, Palace Road; 10.30 am.

88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Sri Rama Seva Mandali Ram Navami Celebration Trust; Kote High School Campus, Chamarajpet; 5 pm.

Kannada Drama Festival: Udayabhanu Kalasangha, Kempegowdanagar; 6.30 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.2°C
Minimum	22.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	34%
Sunset (April 8)	6:32 pm
Sunrise (April 9)	6:12 am
Moonrise	11:02 pm
Moonset	9:38 am

Duo held for blackmailing married woman using private videos

BENGALURU, DHNS: KR Puram police have arrested two men for blackmailing a married woman using her private photos and videos, obtained after befriending her on social media.

The accused have been identified as Ritwik Reddy, 38, alias Raghavendra Prasad Devadiga alias Chennuru Mahesh, and his associate Vannuru Swamy, 34, both natives of Andhra Pradesh.

A senior police officer said the victim, a 38-year-old software professional employed with a private firm, was coerced into paying large sums of money and pledging her gold to meet the accused's demands.

Investigations revealed that the woman came into contact with prime accused Reddy on Snapchat around one-and-a-half years ago.

Reddy was her former classmate from a private college in the city. The two later exchanged phone numbers and remained in touch through calls and messages. During video calls on WhatsApp, the accused recorded and captured screenshots of her private moments.

Reddy later used the material to threaten her, claiming he would share it with her husband, family members, and on social media platforms.

Following the threats, the woman paid over Rs 50 lakh and handed over her gold ornaments. The accused also threatened to kill her husband. Unable to bear the harassment, the woman approached KR Puram police two months ago and filed a complaint.

Based on a tip-off, police arrested the duo and recovered 571 grams of gold ornaments. Officials also found several photos and videos of other women on the accused's mobile phones.

ELECTRICAL WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/CON/RE/MLG/07/2025; Dated: 27-03-2026. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor (s)/firm(s) for the following works. **Tender No.** ELC-RE-MLG-7-25-26; **Name of work:** "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132KV/27 KV Traction Sub-Station (TSS) including SCADA, Feeding Post and Shunt Capacitor Bank with Two (02) No. 21.6/30.24 MVA Traction Transformer at Rupai in Tinsukia Division for N.F. Railway, along with associated Civil and S&T Works". **Tender Value:** ₹18,20,09,564.21; **Earnest Money:** ₹36,40,200.00. Date and Time of Submission of tender: **21-04-2026** at **15.00** hrs.; Date and Time of Opening of tender: **28-04-2026** at **15:00** hrs. The complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. CEE/CON/HQ/Maligaon
Northeast Frontier Railway
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

CORRIGENDUM FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/MAR/01 DATED. 03-03-2026

Corrigendum No. 01 & 02 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/MAR/01, dated: 03-03-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-DESIGN-GC-2026-01** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer/Con/Design, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

ENGINEER WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, Invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.: 05-2026-SrDENC, Date: 06.04.2026. Name of Work**: Miscellaneous P.way Work under SSE/Pway/Jeur under ADEN/KWV(BG) Sub-division for a period of two years. **Approximate Cost of the work**: ₹ 4,17,72,696.76. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 8,35,500/-. **Completion period of the work**: 24 Months. **Maintenance Period**: NA. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website: 20.04.2026 upto 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in 20.04.2026 at 15:30 hrs**. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (Works),
AK/Sur-16 Central Railway, Solapur
Keep your animals away from railway lines

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given in relation to land totally measuring 97917 square feet comprised in Old Survey Nos 1/5D and 1/5A, bearing BBMP Khatha Nos 48/1/10, 44/1/5A, 46/1/11 and 43/1/9 situated in Geddalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, owned by Ms Sonya Chacko and Mr Steven Chacko, which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "**Schedule Property**".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land totally measuring 97917 square feet comprised in Old Survey Nos 1/5D and 1/5A, bearing BBMP Khatha Nos 48/1/10, 44/1/5A, 46/1/11 and 43/1/9 situated in Geddalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on:

Khatha No./ Survey No.	Extent (in square feet)	East	West	North	South
Khatha No. 48/1/10/48	27312	Land in Sy No. 46/1/11	Land in Sy No. 33	Land in Sy No. 43/ 1/9	Land in Survey No. 1/5C
Khatha No. 44/1/5-A/44	21600	Hennur Main Road	Land in Sy No. 1/5D	Land in Sy No. 33	Remaining portion of land measuring 20 guntas in Survey No 1/5A
Khatha No. 46/1/11/46	21780	Hennur Main Road	Land in Sy No. 48/ 1/10	Land in Sy No. 44/ 1/5A	Land in Sy No. 1/5B
Khatha No. 43/1/9/43	27225	Private Property	Private Property	Road	Private Property

Dated this 8th day of April 2026.

Sudheer Madamaiah
Partner
Khaitan & Co. LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru - 560 025, T: +91 80 4339 7000

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

SIGNALLING WORK

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works:- **Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2026-27-01, Date:-02.04.2026. Name of work with its locality**: Conversion of Loop Lines into Common Loop at various stations in DD-WD section of Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Approximate Cost of the work**: ₹ 9,54,39,091.65. **Cost of the form**: Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited**: ₹ 19,08,800/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender**: 24.04.2026 after 15:30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual / postal / e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T Branch),
AK/Sur-17 Central Railway, Solapur
Keep your animals away from railway lines

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru - 43 and intend to enter into Absolute Sale Deed with Owner/s **Sri S.R.Lakshmeesa** s/o Late Rama Subba Rao, **Smt H.N.Jayanthi** w/o Sri S.R.Lakshmesh, **Sri Sheshappa** s/o Late Yelanagappa, **Sri Varun Kumar.B.** s/o Late Bathyappa are the absolute joint owner/s of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **96/10**, which measuring **37 guntas** and exclusive of **1 gunta** of 'B' Kharab Land, Sy.No.**96/11**, which measuring **1 acre 32 guntas** and exclusive of **03 guntas** of 'B' Kharab Land, old Sy.No.**96/11**, New Sy. No.**96/18**, which measuring **20 guntas**, situated at **Medimallasandra Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, which total measuring **03 Acres 09 guntas** and exclusive of **04 guntas** of 'B' Kharab Land in Sy.No.96/10 and Sy.No.96/11 and commonly bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No. 44 and Kalkunte Agrahara Gadi, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Land of Sy. No. 96/2 of Syed Riyaz & Sy.No.96/8 of Syed Pacha Land, **South by:** Land of Sy. No. 96/12 of Syed Ghouse Pheer of children's land and referred to as **"composite schedule property".**

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **10** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and deemed for entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property.

LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SOIL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ADVANCE PLANNING, ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT,RANCHI
NirupanBhawan,3rd Floor,Room No. 403,56-Set, Doranda,Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (National Bidding)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-01/2026-27
2nd Call
e-Tender Ref No:–RCD/SID/AP/RAN/01/2026-27
Date:- 06.04.2026

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Detailed Project Report (D.P.R) for construction of Gola Bypass with approach road towards Rajrappa under road division Ramgarh including new proposal of culverts, bridges, ROBs, RUBs, complete Land acquisition plan including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation proposals , Forest Diversion proposal and Utility Shifting proposal in details etc under Ramgarh District in the State of Jharkhand.(total tentative length-12.00 Km)
2	Period of Completion of Work	60 Days
3	Cost of Tender documents	Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. Non refundable Fee.Tender fee will be recived through online mode only. The quotationers have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand) only as Earnest Money. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit be received in online mode only through e-procurement (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating sistim Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
4	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
5	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	09.04.2026,10:30 AM
6	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	25.04.2026 12:00PM
7	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	25.04.2026 12:00PM
8	Date and Time of Bid opening	27.04.2026 12:30 PM
9	Bid validity	120 days
10	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer(Communication),Road Construction Department,1st Floor, Engineer Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
11	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Soil Investigation Division,Advance Planning,RCD, Ranchi Mob-9905660677.
12	PR. No.-	374588 Road (25-26)D

Note:-Only e-Tender shall be accepted.

Sd./-
(Ravi Shankar Pravakar)
Executive Engineer,
Soil Investigation Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department,Ranchi

PR 376852 Road(26-27).D

संस्कृति मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075

CCRT/11011/01/2026/08/04/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement for the post of Director, CCRT Level-12, GP-7600

With reference to CCRT advertisement No. CCRT/11011/01/2026/01 dated **07th - 13th February, 2026**, inviting applications for the post of Director on Composite Method: Deputation (including short-term contract) plus promotion; failing which by Direct Recruitment basis, published in the Employment News **(07th – 13th February, 2026)** and in other newspapers on **7th February, 2026** on a PAN-India basis, **it is hereby notified that the last date for submission of applications has been extended up to 20/04/2026 (17:30 hrs.)**

2. All other Terms & Conditions shall remain the same.

Sd/- Dy. Director (Administration)
CBC 09101/11/0001/2627 **CCRT, New Delhi**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Kishore, Proprietor of M/s. Poonams, 2502, 8th Floor, Main Road, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka-560011** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case vide **CC No.12804/2019 U/S 138 NI ACT** registered at **P.S Karol Bagh, Central District, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Kishore, Proprietor of M/s.Poonams** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Kishore, Proprietor of M/s. Poonams** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kishore, Proprietor of M/s. Poonams**, accused of **CC No.12804/2019 U/S 138 NI ACT, P.S. Karol Bagh, Central District, Delhi** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.07.2026.**

By Order, Ms. Urvi Gupta
Judicial Magistrate First Class-(NI ACT-01), Central, Room No. 201, Annexe-II, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/4450/CD/2026 (Court Matter)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MADURAI DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE No. MDU-W-05-2026 dated 02.04.2026

e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager / works / Southern Railway / Madurai. Tender closing date for Item **No. 1 to 5 on 24.04.2026 at 14.00 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	App. Value: ₹ In lakhs	EMD ₹	Period of completion
1	ADEN/SCT Sub division:- Yard improvement works at SSE / Pway / SCT & PUU section **SW-I**: Sengottai Station:- Dismantling of existing cement concrete apron & CTR(P) with 60 kg rails and PSC-60 kg sleepers on Road no.1. **SW-II** Renewal of SEJ 25 sets in loop line and 32 sets in PUU section main line **SW-III** Conversion of SWP into LWR on Loop lines & Other lines **SW-IV** TFR (P) on plain track in yards	270.77	541600	6 Months
2	Repairs to pipe line for watering arrangements in MEJ station	48.01	96000	6 Months
3	TPJ-KKDI Section: Cess making at isolated locations between KM: 449.000 to 486.500 in between stations VEL-KKDI in PDKT P.way section.	586.73	1173500	6 months
4	Sr.DEN / South / MDU jurisdiction: Provision of Height gauges in LUS, LC's and Other improvemental works to LC's in SSE / Pway / VPT section	135.91	271800	6 months
5	**ADEN/KKDI Sub division:- SW I**:-Through Fittings Renewal (Primary)-TFR(P) on plain track of various station yards for a length of 46.639 km in SSE / Pway / PDKT. SVGA & MMM section I PDKT-17.296km SVGA-14.362km & MMM-14.981km] **SW II:** Upgradation of Major yards: SEJ renewal and Deepscreening of plain track and points & crossing in KKDI station yard.**SW III:**- Replacement of conventional SEJ in loop lines of various yards 19sets **SW IV:** Deep screening by BCM/Manual on loop lines over various station yard in SSE / Pway / SVGA & MMM section. **SW V:**- Renewal of Glued Joints in SSE / P.Way / MMM section	240.21	480400	12 months

(Items 05 only)

Further details are available in detail on website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Madurai
(for and on behalf of President of India)

Office of The Chief Engineer M.P.P.W.D Bridge Construction Zone Bhopal (M.P.)

Tender Notice

NIT No- 35/C.E.(Bridge Zone) /2025-26 **Date 31.03.2026**

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the mptenders. system of Public Works Department on the Portal **www.mptenders.gov.in** Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in Lack)	(EMD Fee / Tender Fee) All Tender Document &Other Document Submission
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2026_PWDRB_496015_1	Ujjain	Bridge Work	Construction of 2 Lane ROB From Ujjain Tiraha to Nagukhedi Chouraha Road Dewas Parallel to Existing 2 Lane ROB at Old LC. No 29 at K.M 41/3-7 Dwx Yard on Idu Section on Dewas-Ujjain Road in Dewas City Including Shifting 11KV/LT Line/ Xmer and Street Lighting Work Including Service Road	Second	2089.95	Online Only
2	2026_PWDRB_496016_1	Shivpuri	Bridge Work	Construction of Submersible Bridge Including Approach Road Across Sindh River between Village Mihawara and Doni in District Shivpuri	Fourth	1768.45	Online Only
3	2026_PWDRB_496017_1	Raisen	Bridge Work	Construction of Submersible Bridge Including Approach Road Across Betwa River in KM 2/6 on Bhojpur - Bangrasiya Road District-Raisen	Third	1530.45	Online Only
4	2026_PWDRB_496019_1	Khargone	Bridge Work	Construction of High Level Bridge Including approach Road Across Veda River on Makadkheda-Pipalgone road District Khargone.	Second	1374.93	Online Only
5	2026_PWDRB_496020_1	Narsinghpur	Bridge Work	Construction of Submersible Bridge Including Approach Road Across Hiran River on Hirapur Jugpura Road District Narsinghpur.	First	1326.58	Online Only
6	2026_PWDRB_496021_1	Shajapur	Bridge Work	Construction of High Level Bridge Including Approach Road Across Kali Sindh River on Dastakhedi Village Near Vajirpur Kheda Road District Shajapur	Second	1166.81	Online Only
7	2026_PWDRB_496022_1	Rajgarh	Bridge Work	Construction of Submersible Bridge Including Approach Road Across Newaj River in the Way of Baga to Sohanpura on Fathukhedi to Piploda Road District Rajgarh.	Second	939.90	Online Only
8	2026_PWDRB_496023_1	Narsinghpur	Bridge Work	Construction of High Level Bridge Including approach Road Across Sagara Nalla on Suatala to Bilhari Road District Narsinghpur.	First	722.63	Online Only
9	2026_PWDRB_496024_1	Dindori	Bridge Work	Construction of Submersible Brdge including Approch Road Across Chakrar River on Gadasarai-Bachhargaon Road in District Dindori	Fourth	557.76	Online Only
				Total		11477.46	

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 21/04/2026 up to (17:30) Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Sd/- Chief Engineer
PWD Bridge Construction Zone, Bhopal

G-11149/26

JANATHA SEVA CO-OP BANK LTD.,

No. 24, Suvarna Bhavana, 1st Main Road, Hampinagara, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560104.
Phone No.: 23402712, 23503666, Tele Fax: 23359600 Email: jscbinfo@jscbl.com Website: jscbl.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

[Rule 8 (1)]
(For Immovable Property)

Sri. Srinivas. M.R AND Smt. Sharada. S

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated 02.08.2025 calling upon the **Borrower Name & Address: Sri. Srinivas. M.R.** S/o Late Ramaiah and Smt. Sharada. S. Proprietor of M/s Sharada Shelters W/o Sri. Srinivas.M.R both residing at No. 81, Flat No.402, Double Road, Dollars Colony, Behind Presidency School, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 2,82,55,691/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Two Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety One Only) as on 27.01.2026** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **02nd day of April of the year 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd., H.O., Vijayanagar, Bangalore,** for **MTL-25 and MTL-32 at Andrahalli Branch** an amount of **Rs.2,77,61,817/- (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Seven Sixty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Only)** as on **01.04.2026** and interest thereon **02.04.2026**.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

(Details of Hypothecated assets and details of mortgaged Properties of the Borrower)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY / IES

SCHEDULE-B: All the piece and parcel of the Immovable House property bearing Corporation New No. 67/10 (Old No. 67/C), BDA Site No. 61/2 (Old Site No.61) situated at Industrial Suburb, Ward No.10, PID No. 10-1-67/10, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore, Measuring East to West: (72.84 + 71.42)/2 Mtrs and North to South: 12.73 Mtrs Total Measuring 918.53 Sq. Mtrs and Bounded on East By: Conservancy Lane, West By: Road, North By: Site No. 61/1, South By : Site No.62.

SCHEDULE–C: All that **residential Apartment Unit No.102** in the ground Floor of "BRUNDAVANA" to be constructed in the Schedule 'B' Property and apartment, Measuring 1,497 Sq feet of super built Up area inclusive of Proportionate Share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircases and other areas on Common use with one covered car parking spaces at stilts level along with 330 Sq ft of Undivided Share in the Land and bounded by:- East By: Unit No.103, West By: Unit No.101, North By: Site No. 61/1, South By: Site No.62.

All that **residential Apartment Unit No.103** in the ground Floor of "BRUNDAVANA" to be constructed in the Schedule 'B' Property and apartment, Measuring 1565 Sq feet of super built Up area inclusive of Proportionate Share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircases and other areas on Common use with one covered car parking spaces at stilts level along with 330 Sq ft of Undivided Share in the Land and bounded by:- East By: Unit No.104, West By: Unit No.102, North By : Site No. 61/1, South By : Site No.62.

All that **residential Apartment Unit No.303** in the Second Floor of "BRUNDAVANA" to be constructed in the Schedule 'B' Property and apartment, Measuring 1,565 Sq feet of super built Up area inclusive of Proportionate Share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircases and other areas on Common use with one covered car parking at stilts level along with 330 Sq. ft. of Undivided Share in the Land and bounded by:- East By: Unit No.304, West By: Unit No.302, North By: Site No. 61/1, South By: Site No.62

Date : 02.04.2026
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878; e-mail Id-; pdt.juidco@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Project Name: Selection of Agency for providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi
NIT No: JUIDCO/NIT/RB/OM/675
PR No.: 365299 **Tender ID:** 2025_UDD_106278_1

Tender Cancellation Notice

All bidders are hereby informed that tender having details as mentioned above regarding the project **"Selection of Agency for providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at Rabindra Bhawan Convention Centre and Banquet Hall at Ranchi"** has been cancelled as none of the bidders were found to be technically responsive.

The bidders are requested to kindly wait for future communication regarding the tender.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 376865 Urban Development and Housing(26-27)D

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Notification No.-CSU/36014/Advt./2026-27/S-I **Date:- 01.04.2026**

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 UNDER "SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION"

Central Sanskrit University, Delhi is the nodal agency for implementing Central Schemes of Ministry of Education, Government of India for the Promotion of Sanskrit Language. Accordingly, applications are invited from interested NGOs/Voluntary Organizations/Universities/Institutions/ Publishers/Individuals/Students, through online as applicable under the following **Schemes for Sanskrit Promotion** : -

Sl.NO.	Name of the Scheme
1	**Sanskrit Teaching** – Engagement of Sanskrit or Modern Subject Teachers for teaching in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas/Government Schools/Guru-Sishya Parampara Institutions and Residential Scholarships.
2	**Samman Rashi -** Annual grant to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits living in Indigent Circumstances.
3	**Publication, Bulk Purchase and Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books**
4	**Shastra Chudamani -** for utilization of Services of Eminent Shastric Scholars or Retired Sanskrit Scholars.
5	**Programmes & Activities for Promotion of Sanskrit.**
6	**Vocational Training -** Conduct of Vocational Training in Registered Traditional Sanskrit Institutions.
7	**Ashtaadashi** – Eighteen Projects for sustaining the Growth of Sanskrit.
8	**Scholarships -** Award of Scholarships to the students regularly studying Sanskrit/Pali/ Prakrit languages from 9th class to Ph.D level in Traditional/Modern Stream.

Online Registration Starting date – 01.04.2026
Online Registration Closing date – 30.06.2026 and for Scholarship scheme closing date will be 31.08.2026

Note:- However, Portal will be open in the entire year for application.

i) Before filling the application form, it is advised that the scheme guidelines be referred of each scheme, remuneration, required documents, how to apply in online and application forwarding process etc., please visit the Central Sanskrit University's website **www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes.**

ii) In each scheme, automatic renewal shall not be considered. Hence, it is mandatory for all grantee institutions of previous years to apply afresh for each scheme, as per schematic norms.

iii) Further, consideration or rejection of the application for financial assistance will depend upon the availability of funds and approval of the GIAC etc., as per schematic norms. Therefore, it is mandatory to apply every year on scheme-to-scheme basis separately for financial assistance.

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LPG crisis: Auto drivers head to hometowns temporarily

Time to switch to electric mode, says union functionary

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Some autorickshaw drivers have temporarily decided to halt their operations and head back to their hometowns due to the ongoing auto LPG crisis and their inability to keep pace with the daily expenses in the city.

After incurring back-to-back losses for about a week, Ziyauddin, a 42-year-old auto driver from DJ Halli, said he has decided to temporarily move to his hometown with his family.

"It didn't make sense to stay here because I am losing money. I will spend two to three hours waiting at the gas station, only to be told later that the bunk was out of gas for the day. The entire day will be wasted," he said.

Moving back home would help him save on rent and daily expenses, he said.

"My family is from a small village near Salem. We have a house there and our expenses are minimal. Since my kids currently have summer vacations, we thought we could shift there for some time and return when the situation has normalised," he added.

Auto drivers have to stand in a long queue for hours to get a fuel refill in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

For many, the current situation is reminiscent of hardships faced during the Covid-19-induced lockdown.

Naveen Kumar, a 33-year-old auto driver, said, "The same thing happened then; it became impossible to survive in the city. I had to pack my things and go back to my hometown in Tumakuru. Since I have barely been able to take many ride bookings, I am not able to consistently pay the rent for my auto."

Naveen also had to bear the brunt of additional repair charges last week after his auto faced some damage while queuing for LPG in Uttarahalli.

Wake-up call

There is also a visible shift towards electric autos. Auto drivers can use the current situation as an opportunity to upgrade their autos, said D Rudramurthy, general secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU).

"This is a wake-up call for all auto drivers. Since it is possible to convert LPG autos to CNG or electric autos, this is the right time to make the move. Some people are already doing this. Anyone interested can reach out to the association for guidance," he told *DH*.

Yatnal will return to BJP soon, says Ramesh Jarkiholi

ATHANI (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS: BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi has termed the campaigning by expelled party MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal for the party's candidate Veeranna Charantimath in the byelection for Bagalkot constituency a good sign.

"We hope to get him back to the party. But we will not allow the re-entry of MLA Laxman Savadi to BJP, though his supporters are making such noises," he told reporters.

"We are making efforts to get Yatnal back since the day he was expelled. It's a good sign as he has been campaigning for the party's candidate. The stage has been set for his return. We hope he will be back soon. Yatnal's return will strengthen Hindu support for BJP," he said.

He said, "We will not allow Savadi to return to BJP, though his supporters are creating such an environment. If he tries to do so, we will play his speeches on LED screens across Athani and remarks he made against BJP leaders while quitting". Jarkiholi said he opposed Savadi's re-entry into the party.

Cong terms fuel crisis Centre's 'economic exploitation' of working class

BENGALURU, DHNS

The ruling Congress in Karnataka on Tuesday accused the Union government of "administrative failure" and "indifference" when acute LPG and fuel crises continue to disrupt livelihoods across the state.

In a joint statement, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged that the "mismanagement" of LPG supply by the Modi government had pushed lakhs of families into distress.

Calling it a "livelihood emergency," the Congress said the crisis had left thousands of families struggling for survival, with many auto drivers unable to operate and small businesses facing closure.

"Over five lakh auto drivers in the state are facing severe hardships due to a sharp spike in auto LPG prices and supply shortages. This is not inflation but economic exploitation of the working class," the leaders said, pointing to a reported increase in the auto LPG prices from Rs 58 – Rs 61 per litre in March to as high as Rs 105–Rs 120 within weeks, with private outlets charging even more.

Alleging artificial scarcity, the Congress claimed nearly 80% of LPG and CNG stations in Bengaluru had shut down and number of operational outlets had declined from 60–70 to just 10–15. Daily fuel supply has reportedly halved, forcing drivers to queue up for hours, often returning without fuel, they charged.

The statement said commercial LPG cylinder prices have crossed Rs 2,000, currently pegged at Rs 2,161, with allegations of black market rates soaring up to Rs 6,000. "This has severely hit small hotels, roadside vendors and gig workers dependent on affordable fuel," they added.

The leaders said that LPG supply falls entirely under the jurisdiction of the Centre through oil marketing companies.

The party also sought accountability from union ministers representing Karnataka, urging them to either address the issue or resign. The people of Karnataka will not forgive this betrayal. The silence of the Modi government will echo in its defeat in the Davangere South and Bagalkot by-elections, as well as in elections in other states, it stated

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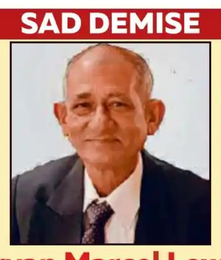

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ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಜಿ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನ್

ಅಭಿನಂದನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ದಿನಾಂಕ 09–04–2026, ಗುರುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ಕ್ಕೆ

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಡಾ. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಭವನ, ವಸಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಮಾಜ ಸೇವೆ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ದಲಿತ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪಾರ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ.ಜಿ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನ್ ಅವರ ಜೀವನ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಅಭಿನಂದನಾ ಸಮಿತಿಯಿಂದ ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ.ಜಿ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸನ್ ಅವರು, ಸತತ 17 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಿರತ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಿಂದ ಡಾ. ಎಲ್. ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯನವರ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಲಿತ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆದಾರರ ಸಂಘದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅವರ ಆಶಯದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಸಹಕಾರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ದಲಿತ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬನೆಗಾಗಿ ರೂಪಗೊಂಡ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು.

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Inspiration for Dalit Entrepreneurs

Sri. C.G. Srinivasan

felicitation Ceremony

Date: 09-04-2026, Thursday @11am

Venue : Dr. Ambedkar Bhavana, Vasantanagara, Bengaluru

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- Exemption on Tax on Electricity Tariff.
- Full Reimbursement of Loan processing fee, legal fee, loan disbursement fee.

ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಅಪಾರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಿನಂತಿ

M Sandeep
Sree Venkateshwara Enterprises
KIADB IT Park, Devanahalli

Naveen V
Shree Hemadramma Construction

Panel nod for revised Saundatti power project; 64k trees face axe

Committee decides not to conduct a fresh public hearing

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 64,454 trees are to be felled for the pumped storage project (PSP) proposed at Saundatti in Belagavi district.

The installed capacity of this project has been enhanced from the earlier 1,260 |MW to 1,600 MW and an expert committee at the Centre has cleared the additional requirement of over 231 acres of non-forest land for the project.

The enhancement of the installed capacity of the project has been approved along with the construction of a lower reservoir. The total land required for the project has gone up from 528 acre to 759.65 acre. Also cleared is the one-time requirement of 0.759 tmc of water.

The expert appraisal committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, however, decided not to seek a fresh public hearing for the revised project proposed by Greenko KA01 IREP Private Limited.

The installed capacity of this project has been enhanced from the earlier 1,260 MW to 1,600 MW. DH FILE PHOTO

"The EAC was of the view that since (the company) has already conducted public hearing before the grant of earlier environment clearance on 07/01/2019 and additional private land required for proposed components is adjacent to the earlier components of the project and the lower reservoir falls in the same study area for which the EC was granted. Moreover, 70% of total private land has been acquired. Therefore, there is no requirement of fresh public consultation/hearing," it said.

As per the documents, when the public hearing was conducted, the number of trees to be cleared was 5,086. As per the latest submissions, a total of 64,454 trees have to be cleared for the project. The company has estimated the project cost at Rs 11,015.98 crore.

The forest and open land environment in the area is home to Bengal fox, golden jackal, grey wolf, jungle cat, Indian grey mongoose, striped hyena, porcupine, peafowl, mugger crocodile, Bengal monitor lizard among other species. However, in 2021, the then deputy conservator of forests Ashok Patil had given a report stating that grey wolf was not present in the area.

The company has sought forest clearance from the ministry and given an undertaking to pay for the compensatory afforestation while agreeing to comply with other recommendations.

A sum of Rs 53.34 crore has been deposited in the state Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority, as per the submissions made to the Centre.

BJP has fielded ordinary party workers: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday characterised the upcoming byelection to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly seats as a battle between the rich and the poor, in a veiled jibe at the Congress's choice of candidates.

BJP Lok Sabha member Govind Karjol releases a 'charge sheet' against the Congress government in the state, in Bagalkot on Tuesday.

The Congress, which has opted for 'dynastic and influential' candidates, would lose both the seats, said Ashoka. Turning Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's own words against him, Ashoka said, "Siddaramaiah himself stressed that the poor should win. The BJP took that seriously and fielded candidates who hail from a humble background. This election will show whether people support the wealthy and powerful or ordinary citizens."

Congress had opted for members of political families in both the constituencies over grassroots functionaries, said Ashoka, claiming that the wind was blowing in the BJP's favour in both the seats. Pointing to unrest among Muslims in Davangere South, the LoP said, "Muslims have realised that if the Congress candidate – Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun – wins the byelection, members of their community will be denied any opportunity in the future as well. Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has run away from Davangere without campaigning since Congress views Muslims only as a votebank."

Taking aim at Siddaramaiah's lavish lifestyle, denoted by his clothes, shawl, and pens, Ashoka jibed that the CM was an 'upper-class' leader who relied on the backward classes only to garner votes.

"The byelection will serve as a referendum on the state government's performance. There is a prevailing anti-incumbency sentiment on the ground. Deputy CM D K Shivakumar will permanently be given a 'chombu (empty jar)' given that the CM has plunged the state in debt. There can be no development in the state till the power tussle between the two ends," said Ashoka.

Don't run me out in this match, Azhar urges D'gere South voters

Ensure Congress candidate wins by a margin of over 25k votes, says former cricketer

DAVANGERE, DHNS

Former captain of the Indian cricket team and Telangana Minister Mohammed Azharuddin on Tuesday appealed to voters in Davangere South constituency not to run him out in the match – the byelection.

Former cricketer and Telangana Minister Mohammed Azharuddin campagins for Davangere South bypoll Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur, in Davangere on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Minister S S Mallikarjun are also seen. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Campaigning for Congress candidate Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun, Azharuddin said, "Coming here has been very difficult for me. So, don't run me out and ensure that the match is won by a huge margin. Samarth's victory is certain, but he must win by a margin of more than 25,000 votes. Anybody can win an election by one-five thousand votes."

Congress will secure the future of youngsters, said the former Indian cricketer.

Claiming that no other party could help youngsters build a successful future, he added, "Suppose you support other parties, you will lose your path in life. Congress is a secular party that takes Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and other communities along, which is why it has been a force in the country for decades."

By the grace of God, Samarth's family was a political powerhouse, two times over, said Azharuddin, referring to the fact that the latter's father S S Mallikarjun is a minister, while his mother Prabha Mallikarjun is an MP.

"Hold on to this family tightly so the constituency can see progress. Development has been undertaken in the constituency and the voters must be thankful to the Shamanur family," said Azharuddin, who also touched on the guarantee schemes rolled out by the Congress government.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar, Rajya Sabha MP Naseer Hussain and others accompanied Azharuddin on the campaign trail.

In jibe at HM, Suresh reiterates he wants to see brother as CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bamul president D K Suresh on Tuesday reiterated that he wanted to see his elder brother and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar as chief minister, but perhaps not immediately.

He was responding to a reporter's question about Home Minister G Parameshwara's statement that Siddaramaiah would remain the chief minister for the next two years. The home minister, on Monday, had stated that Siddaramaiah would be the CM for the next two years and there was no need to repeat it.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, Suresh sarcastically said, "You must ask him about that. The home minister has made an official statement, we have to listen to what he says".

When a reporter reminded him that he had openly expressed his desire to see his brother become the chief minister, Suresh replied, "Let's talk about that later. I haven't said I have no desire. I haven't said he will become CM today".

The Congress leader said the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha seats would cause economic loss to south Indian states as taxes collected in the south would be distributed to the north Indian states.

Govt mandates audit for teenage pregnancies; committee formed

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hospitals, both private and government, must record teenage pregnancies on Rural Child Health web portal.

The government has mandated audit for adolescent pregnancy cases across government and private hospitals in the state.

The audit will help in facilitating early identification, counselling and preventive interventions through convergence with allied departments.

The Taluk Health Officers (THO) must implement the audit and record all the pregnancies occurring among girls aged between 10 and 18 years. The hospitals, both private and government, must record the teenage pregnancies on Rural Child Health (RCH) web portal. The audit will examine the age at which the girl was married, educational status and her school attendance records. The awareness on reproductive health and access to contraception and counselling services and the social and economic status of the family will also be considered for audit.

The committee will be headed by THO and will comprise Medical Secretary of Primary Health Centre, Health Inspector, ASHA and Anganwadi supervisor and a school representative based on the necessity of the case. The Sneha centres, that were established in rural areas to provide counselling services, will also provide counselling to the adolescent girls. A provision for contraceptives and pregnancy testing kits will also be made.

The committee will also identify and map vulnerable adolescent girls, including school dropouts, migrants and socially vulnerable households. Counselling for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) for pregnant teenage girls will also be provided.

The District Health Officer (DHO) and Deputy Director for Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama at the state-level will be responsible for the audit and will monitor the auditing. The cases will be divided as preventable and non-preventable.

All cases will be handled with strict confidentiality and in accordance with applicable legal provisions, including mandatory reporting requirements under relevant child protection laws, the order read.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Palike Soudha, Govindarajanagara, M.C. Layout, Bengaluru - 560040.

No: ACF/BWCC/TENDER/PR/01/2026-27 Date: 07-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Service Tender from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Forest / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Services detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Rajarajeshwari Nagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0076**
2	Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0077**
3	Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0078**
4	Basavanagudi Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0079**
5	Padmanabhanagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0080**
6	Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0081**
7	Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days DayTeam. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0082**
8	Rajajinagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days DayTeam. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0083**
9	Govindarajanagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days DayTeam. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0084**
10	Dasarahalli Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days DayTeam. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0085**
11	Malleshwaram Zone Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Night Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0086**
12	Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Night Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0087**
13	Rajarajeshwarinagara Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0088**
14	Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0089**
15	Basavanagudi Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0090**
16	Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0091**
17	Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0092**
18	Rajajinagara Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0093**
19	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Rajarajeshwari Nagara and Yeshwanthapura Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 5104160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 102083.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0094**
20	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Dasarahalli and Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 5104160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 102083.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0095**
21	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Basavanagudi and Padmanabhanagara Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 5104160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 102083.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0096**
22	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Rajajinagara and Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 5104160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 102083.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0097**
23	Mobile Hydraulic Crane 35 T Capacity for Removal of Tree / Branches to Govindarajanagara and Vijayanagara Assembly Constituency for Supporting Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 5104160.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 102083.00, Indent No: BWCC/2026-27/SE0098**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 08-04-2026. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal is **13-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting on **13-04-2026 at 2.30 PM in the Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BWCC, Palike Soudha, Govindarajanagara, M.C. Layout, Bengaluru - 560040. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of RFP in KPP Portal is **17-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in KPP Portal is **18-04-2026 at 5.10 PM. 6)** Date and Time of Online Financial Opening of Tender: **When Approval of Technical Bid. 7)** Place of Opening of RFP: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 8)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BWCC, Palike Soudha, Govindarajanagara, M.C. Layout, Bengaluru - 560040, E-mail: acfbbmpsouth@yahoo.co.in, Contact No: 7019464699.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru West City Corporation.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: ACF/BSCC/TENDER/PR/01/2026-27 Date: 07-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, Bengaluru invites Service Tender from eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Forest / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Services detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Jayanagara Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0065**
2	Padmanabhanagara Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 180, 182 and 181) Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0066**
3	Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0067**
4	Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 31), BTM Layout Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30) Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0068**
5	BTM Layout Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0069**
6	Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0070**
7	Jayanagara Zone Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0071**
8	Bommanahalli Zone Tree Canopy Management During the year 2026-27, 365 Days Day Team. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 4250000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 85000.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0072**
9	Jayanagara Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0073**
10	Jayanagara Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0074**
11	Padmanabhangara Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0075**
12	Bengaluru South Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0076**
13	BTM Layout Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23) Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0077**
14	BTM Layout Assembly Constituency (Ward No. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30) Rapid Response Team, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0078**
15	Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency Rapid Response Team from 01-05-2026 to 31-10-2026, 183 Days. **Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 2125000.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42500.00, Indent No: BSCC/2025-26/SE0079**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 08-04-2026. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in KPP Portal is **13-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting on **13-04-2026 at 12.30 PM in the Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru South Palike Building, Bengaluru - 560011. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of RFP in KPP Portal is **17-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in KPP Portal is **18-04-2026 at 5.10 PM. 6)** Date and Time of Online Financial Opening of Tender: **When Approval of Technical Bid. 7)** Place of Opening of RFP: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 8)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Palike Building, Bengaluru - 560011, E-mail: acfbbmpsouth@yahoo.co.in, Contact No: 7019464699.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru South City Corporation.

BJP demands Kharge's arrest over 'provocative' speech

Lodges complaint with DGP over his speech in Assam

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BJP leaders on Tuesday lodged a complaint with the state police chief (DG&IGP) against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his recent election speech in Assam, alleging that it was "irresponsible and provocative" where he had likened the BJP-RSS to "poisonous snakes".

In the complaint, they charged that Kharge had said, "It is written in the Quran that if a poisonous snake is seen during namaz, it must be killed. The RSS-BJP are like that poisonous snake; if you do not kill it, you will not survive."

They contended that such statements, made by a national leader, endanger the lives of BJP and RSS members across the country.

"His statement may encourage misguided individuals to attack our workers. So, the police should take suo motu action against Kharge and arrest him, while providing adequate security to protect our workers," said the complaint.

In the complaint, they invoked multiple provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 196 for promoting enmity between groups, Section 196(2) for offences committed in religious contexts, Section 197 for statements prejudicial to national integration, Section 299 for outraging religious sentiments, and Section 353 for statements that could incite public disorder, while referring to the Supreme Court's ruling in Shaheen Abdulla vs Union of India (2022), which mandates prompt police action in cases of alleged hate speech, even without formal complaints.

Earlier in the day, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka hit back at Kharge over his remarks and accused him of using "derogatory language" and lowering the level of political discourse.

"Mallikarjun Kharge has let his tongue loose. He should tell us who planted the cooker bomb in Mangaluru. For Congress leaders, terrorists look like angels. Not a single word comes out of their mouth against the Naxalites. They only criticise the BJP and RSS. People will decide who the real snakes are," said Ashoka, adding that such statements only reflected the mindset of the Congress leadership.

Lokayukta sleuths raid eight govt officers in DA cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Lokayukta sleuths on Tuesday conducted simultaneous raids on eight government officers across the state in connection with alleged disproportionate assets (DA) cases, officials said.

According to the Lokayukta sources, the raids were carried out in the morning at the residences and offices of at least eight officials serving in different departments and districts, including Kodagu, Bidar and Mysuru.

Among those searched is I K Puttaswamy, an assistant executive engineer (AEE) posted at Harangi Dam sub-division in Kodagu district.

He was found to be owning six sites, a residential house, and a car. Preliminary estimates suggested that assets worth approximately Rs two crore to Rs 2.5 crore, disproportionate to his known sources of income, have been identified.

Valuables found in the house of an assistant drug controller during the Lokayukta raid in Mangaluru on Tuesday.

In Bidar, searches were conducted against Suresh K L, retired finance controller at the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Nandinagar.

Officials said Shivanna, deputy director in the Fisheries Department in Ballari, was also covered under the operation.

Lokayukta SP Vasudevaram informed that Shivanna and his family memebrs were found to be having 14 sites, 44 acres of land amongst other assets.

In Mysuru, premises linked to Kiran Kumar, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, were searched.

In Chitradurga, raids were conducted against Susheelamma, a retired accounts assistant of Nirmiti Kendra. The sleuths found that she owned assets totalling to Rs 7.90 cr - comprising six farm houses, 11 sites, 29 acres of agricultural land, a commercial complex worth Rs one crore, vehicles worth Rs 43 lakh.

In Mangaluru, Babu B N, serving as an assistant drug controller, was among those targeted by the Lokayukta sleuths.

Similarly, in Shivamogga, Shobha K R, district officer at the Backward Classes Welfare Department and Ajay Singh, assistant executive engineer in the District Urban Development Cell, were also subjected to searches.

"A coordinated operation was launched this morning against multiple officials suspected to have amassed assets disproportionate to their known sources of income," a Lokayukta official said.

"The searches are being carried out at several locations simultaneously and are still in progress," the official added.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ

ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾದುದು

ಸಂಪುಟ ೧೬೧ Volume 161	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಸೋಮವಾರ, ೦೬ ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್, ೨೦೨೬ (ಚೈತ್ರ ೧೬, ಶಕವರ್ಷ ೧೯೪೮) BENGALURU, MONDAY, 06 APRIL, 2026 (CHAITHRA, 16, SHAKAVARSHA 1948)	ಸಂಚಿಕೆ ೬೫ Issue 65

ಭಾಗ 3

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆಯಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗಳು

ನಮೂನೆ–V

ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

[ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ನಿಯಮ–5, 20(1) (ಬಿ)]

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಪುನರ್‌ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್‌ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2013ರ ಕಲಂ –11(1)ರ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ ಭೂಸ್ವಾವಿ/ಬೀದರ್ /ಅಲಿಯಂಬರ್/2025–26/E-295537 **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–04–2026**

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಂದರೆ ವಸತಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೀದರ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಜನವಾಡ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಅಲಿಯಂಬರ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನತೆಯ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆಯೆಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಪುನರ್ ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2013 (2013 ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 30) ಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–07–2019 ರಿಂದ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿರುವ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2019 (2019 ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 16) ರ ಕಲಂ–10(ಎ) ರಡಿ ಮೂಲ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ II & III ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಉಪಬಂಧಗಳನ್ನು ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ನೀಡಿ **ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆರ್‌ಡಿ 03 ಎಕ್ಯೂಬಿಐ 2026 ದಿ: 13–03–2026 ರಲ್ಲಿ** ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ **ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–04–2026** ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಪುನರ್ ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2013 (2013 ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 30)ರ ಕಲಂ 12 ರ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಚಲಾಯಿಸುವಂತೆ ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ನೇಮಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮೋಜಣಿದಾರರಿಗಾಗಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವವರಿಗಾಗಲೀ ಯಾರೂ ಅಡ್ಡಿ ಮಾಡಕೂಡದೆಂದು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ,ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು, ಪುನರ್ ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2013 (2013ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 30) ರ ಕಲಂ–11(1) ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಿರುವ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ವಿಕ್ರಯಿಸುವ, ಬೋಗಸ್ಕೆ ಅಡವಿಡುವ, ಅನುಭವಿಸುವ ,ಬದಲಾಯಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ನೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳದಂತೆ ನಿರ್ಭಂದಿಸಿದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಯಾವುದೇ ಕ್ರಮ ಅಥವಾ ಇನ್ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಏತೀರ್ಪು ರಚಿಸುವಾಗ ಗಣನೆಗೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ, ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪುನರ್ ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–2013 (2013 ರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 30) ರ ಕಲಂ 15(1) ರ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪವಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡ 60 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ತದನಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗುವ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡದೇ ವಿಲೇಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಒಂದು ನಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ–2, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗಾಗಿ ಇಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ

ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೀದರ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ಬೀದರ್ ಹೋಬಳಿ: ಜನವಾಡ ಗ್ರಾಮ: ಅಲಿಯಂಬರ್

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (ಪಹಣಿಯಂತೆ)		ಸರ್ವೆ / ಖಾತಾ ನಂಬರ್	ಸರ್ವೆ/ಖಾತಾ ನಂಬರಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಪಹಣಿ/ಉತಾರ ಅನ್ವಯ)		ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೊಳಪಡುವ ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		ತರಹೆ	ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ /ಸರಹದ್ದು				ಷರಾ
	ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ / ಹಿಡುವಳಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಅನುಭವದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು		ಕೃಷಿ / ಕೃಷಿಯೇತರ ಜಮೀನು (ಎ–ಗುಂ)	ಖರಾಬು (ಎ–ಗುಂ)	ಕೃಷಿ / ಕೃಷಿಯೇತರ ಜಮೀನು (ಎ–ಗುಂ)	ಖರಾಬು (ಎ–ಗುಂ)		ಪೂರ್ವ	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	ಉತ್ತರ	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	231/1	1–35	0–00	1–35	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 231/4 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 250	ಸ ನಂ. 232	ಸ ನಂ. 231/2	
2.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	231/2	1–35	0–00	1–35	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 231/4 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 250	ಸ ನಂ. 231/2	ಸ ನಂ. 231/3	
3.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	231/3	1–35	0–00	1–35	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 231/4 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 250, 228	ಸ ನಂ. 231/2	ಸ ನಂ. 228	
4.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	231/5	3–09	0–00	3–09	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 231/6,7,8	ಸ ನಂ. 231/4	ಸ ನಂ. 232	ಸ ನಂ. 230	
5.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	231/7	1–36	0–00	1–36	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 231/9 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 231/5	ಸ ನಂ. 231/6	ಸ ನಂ. 231/8	
6.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	232/1	1–30	0–00	1–30	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 232/4,5 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 249	ಸ ನಂ. 248	ಸ ನಂ. 232/2	
7.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	232/2	1–30	0–00	1–30	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 232/6 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 249	ಸ ನಂ. 232/1	ಸ ನಂ. 232/3	
8.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ (ತಾಯಿ ರುಕ್ಮಿಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಲಕರ)	232/3	1–30	0–00	1–30	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 232/6	ಸ ನಂ. 249	ಸ ನಂ. 232/2	ಸ ನಂ. 231	
9.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	232/6	4–00	0–00	4–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 233, 232/7,8 ರಸ್ತೆ	ಸ ನಂ. 232/2,3	ಸ ನಂ. 232/5	ಸ ನಂ. 231	
10.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ	233/2	4–16	0–00	4–16	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 233/3	ಸ ನಂ.233/1	ಸ ನಂ. 237	ಸ ನಂ.233/3	
11.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	233/6	5–00	0–00	5–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 233/4, 236	ಸ ನಂ. 232/4	ಸ ನಂ.236, 237/3	ಸ ನಂ. 214/2,3	
12.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	236/1	2–00	0–00	2–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 236/3	ಸ ನಂ.232	ಸ ನಂ.232	ಸ ನಂ.236/3	
13.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	237/1	2–00	0–00	2–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 236	ಸ ನಂ. 237/2	ಸ ನಂ. 237/6,9	ಸ ನಂ. 237/5	
14.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	237/2	15–16	0–00	15–16	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 237/ 1,5,3, 236	ಸ ನಂ. 248, 232	ಸ ನಂ. 237/5,9	ಸ ನಂ. 237/3	
15.	ರುಕ್ಮೀಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರ ಸಪಾರಳಕರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಎಸ್ ಪಿ ಎ ಹೋಲ್ಡರ್ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ತಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಳಕರ ಗಂ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ	ರುಕ್ಮೀಣಿಬಾಯಿ ಗಂ ಸುಧಾಕರ ಸಪಾರಳಕರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಎಸ್ ಪಿ ಎ ಹೋಲ್ಡರ್ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ತಂ ಸುಧಾಕರಸ ಪಾರಳಕರ ಗಂ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ	237/3 ಪೈಕಿ	4–00	0–00	2–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 236/2	ಸ ನಂ. 233/3	ಸ ನಂ. 237/2	ಸ ನಂ. 236/3	
16.	ಪದ್ಮಾವತಿ ಗಂ ಶಂಕರೆಪ್ಪಾ	ಪದ್ಮಾವತಿ ಗಂ ಶಂಕರೆಪ್ಪಾ	237/6	1–15	0–00	1–15	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 236	ಸ ನಂ. 237/4	ಸ ನಂ. 238	ಸ ನಂ. 237/1	
17.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	246/2	8–20	0–01	8–19	0–01	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 246/5	ಸ ನಂ.246/4 253	ಸ ನಂ. 255	ಸ ನಂ. 248	
18.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	246/5	2–00	0–00	2–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 246/6	ಸ ನಂ. 246/2	ಸ ನಂ. 255	ಸ ನಂ. 248	
19.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	246/6	2–00	0–00	2–00	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 246/7	ಸ ನಂ. 246/5	ಸ ನಂ. 255, 256	ಸ ನಂ. 248	
20.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಹೆಚ್ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ್ ಎ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	246/7	1–29	0–00	1–29	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 246/3	ಸ ನಂ. 246/6	ಸ ನಂ. 256	ಸ ನಂ. 248	
21.	ಅಭಯ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ತಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	ಅಭಯ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ ತಂ ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪುಲ್ಸೆ	248/1	17–00	0–28	16–12	0–28	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 248/2	ಸ ನಂ. 232	ಸ ನಂ. 253, 246	ಸ ನಂ. 232	
22.	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	ಶಿವಶಂಕರ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ ಬಿನ್ ದಿ ಹಿರಾಲಾಲ ಪೂಲ್ಸೆ	248/2	3–15	0–23	2–32	0–23	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 248/3 247	ಸ ನಂ. 248/1	ಸ ನಂ. 246	ಸ ನಂ. 247	
23.	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ	ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಗಂ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ	253/6	7–37	0–00	7–37	0–00	ಖುಷ್ಕಿ	ಸ ನಂ 246	ಸ ನಂ. 252	ಸ ನಂ. 253/1	ಸ ನಂ. 253/7	
ಒಟ್ಟು						93–16	1–12						

ಘೋಷ್ವಾರೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳು	ಜಾತಾ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು		ಖರಾಬು ಎ–ಗು		ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಎ–ಗು	
1.	ಅಲಿಯಂಬರ್	93	16	1	12	94	28

(ವಿ.ಸೂ: ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣಾ ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ಮೊಬೈಲ್‌ನಂಬರನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪದೇ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು)

ಸಹಿ/– ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/RO87/AAPL/2026-27

'Whole civilisation will die': Trump tells defiant Iran

Iran, From Page 1

"Up to today we have shown great restraint for the sake of good neighbourliness and have had some consideration in choosing targets for retaliation," it said. "But all these restraints have since been removed."

If the US carried out Trump's threat to hit Iran's power grid, Tehran would plunge Gulf states including Saudi Arabia into darkness, a senior Iranian source said, a threat that had been conveyed to Washington via Qatar.

Meanwhile, efforts to facilitate talks between the US and Iran were ongoing, two Pakistani sources with knowledge of the discussions told Reuters on Tuesday. However, one of the sources, a senior security official, said Iran's overnight strikes on Saudi Arabia's industrial facilities linked to US firms threatened to derail the talks.

If Saudi Arabia were to retaliate, the talks would be over, the source said, adding that could draw Pakistan into the conflict under its defence pact with Riyadh which binds both nations to fight for each other in case of a war.

Earlier, another senior Iranian source told *Reuters* that Tehran had rejected a proposal conveyed by intermediaries for a temporary ceasefire.

Talks on a lasting peace could begin only after the US and Israel stop bombing, guarantee not to start again and offer compensation for damage, the Iranian source said, adding that any settlement must leave Iran in control of the strait.

Fraud a/c: Borrower's personal hearing not mandatory, says SC

'Classification based on documentary evidence'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said borrowers are not entitled to a mandatory personal hearing before banks classify their accounts as fraud under the Reserve Bank of India rules.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan felt that affording such an opportunity to recalcitrant borrowers, who hold depositors' money, would enable them to dissipate assets, destroy evidence or abscond, causing enormous prejudice to the public interest.

The court noted that RBI, considering the fact that frauds in accounts are of various hues, opined that granting a right of personal hearing to every borrower, would be practically inexpedient, given the large volume of cases that have already arisen.

Moreover, the bench highlighted that the classification of fraud is predominantly based on documentary evidence such as financial statements, transaction records, stock statements and security valuations and other documentary evidence.

The bench said an oral hearing is bound to convert an administrative process, intended to be swift, into a protracted one, defeating the very purpose of the exercise.

"It would also cause significant logistical and infrastructural burden apart from providing opportunity to recalcitrant borrowers who are in possession of the money of the depositors to dissipate assets, destroy evidence or even abscond causing enormous prejudice to public interest," the bench said.

In its 106-page judgment, the bench said it would also put public money in jeopardy as borrowers will continue to enjoy exposures from banks and logistically, it will seriously encumber the working hours of the bank officials.

The court agreed with an apprehension that if a personal hearing is recognised as a right, multiple directors may seek multiple personal hearings, which will throw banking operations into disarray.

The bench said more importantly, in the ultimate analysis, the exercise of classification of accounts, is in the broad sense a housekeeping due diligence, internally carried out by the bank.

"The process of a show-cause notice with the supply of the evidentiary material, consideration of the representation and the mandate to pass a reasoned order are more than adequate safeguards. This balances the need for promptitude with the requirement to maintain fairness in action," the court said in its interpretation of the RBI's master directions on fraud risk management.

The court set aside the Calcutta High Court's judgment, which relied on the Supreme Court's 2023 decision in State Bank of India Vs Rajesh Agarwal, to direct the appellant bank to grant the respondent a personal oral hearing before declaring his account as fraudulent.

Rejecting the contention that such a hearing is mandatory, the bench said the principles of natural justice are flexible and depend on the nature of the proceedings and a statutory framework.

Police sub-inspector K Netravati makes personnel stand in the hot sun at Chikkajajur in Holalkere taluk of Chitradurga district on Tuesday.

SI makes personnel stand in hot sun for 3 hrs for 'not doing job well'

SP orders probe against woman officer

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Personnel of the Chikkajajur police station in Holalkere taluk of the district, including women, were made to stand in the hot sun for over three hours 'for not doing jobs assigned to them properly' by sub-inspector (SI) K Netravati on Tuesday.

The SI's action has triggered widespread criticism, prompting district superintendent of police (SP) Ranjith Kumar Bandaru to direct deputy SP Girish Gowda to conduct an investigation into the episode.

The news and photos of the incident have gone viral on social media.

Among them were 16 male personnel, including the assistant sub-inspector (ASI), and four female personnel. Some of those standing were seen holding rifles.

Those who got exhausted due to the 'punishment' reportedly sought water to drink, while the elderly among them were reduced to tears. A few reported health issues and visited a hospital for treatment, sources said.

Bandaru told reporters that he had sought an explanation from the sub-inspector in this regard.

Reacting to the charges, Netravati said she had not punished anybody. The SI said the personnel had to remain in standing position for some time as she was admonishing one of the personnel who addressed her in the singular during the weekly parade. The said personnel had repeatedly shown dereliction of duty, she said.

Most in their 30s face obesity, future diabetes risk: Study

BENGALURU, DHNS

Many patients present with excess weight and early metabolic warning signs – elevated blood sugar, borderline cholesterol, and rising blood pressure, say doctors.

Nearly eight in 10 people in a Bengaluru city health survey were found to be obese, with almost a quarter battling hypertension and one in seven anaemics — and most of them are in their 30s.

The findings come from the 'Health of the Nation' report by city-based Apollo Hospital, drawn from a sample of 41,566 people in Bengaluru.

Seven in 10 people in the country are deficient in Vitamin D, the report notes, and around 50% of the sample were found to be B12 deficient.

Dr Mahesh DM, Senior Consultant, Endocrinology, told *DH* the numbers reflect what doctors see every day.

"Many patients visiting hospitals today show signs of being overweight or obese along with early metabolic issues such as increased blood sugar, borderline cholesterol levels, and rising blood pressure," he said.

He added that younger people are showing up in growing numbers.

Even those who appear otherwise healthy are at risk, he said, due to sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy eating habits, high stress, and lack of regular exercise.

General Physician Dr Kiran Chandrashekar put the long-term picture in sharper relief. "In next five to eight years, obesity rate would have converted to diabetes and other serious issues," he said. "People in early 30s need to modify their lifestyle for the better."

Internal Medicine Specialist Dr Shreevidya V said: "Obesity is the beginning. It leads the way to strokes, heart diseases and even erectile dysfunction. Obesity was hardly found 20 years ago, but now it is heading towards a pandemic".

Doctors flagged associated risks sleep apnea, snoring, insulin resistance, hormonal imbalance in women, strokes and heart attacks.

TRADE TIMED WELL

A vendor from Maharashtra gives final touches to a cricket bat amid bats and wickets of varying sizes and colours which are put up for sale near the fort in Kalaburagi on Tuesday. He has timed his sale perfectly for the summer holidays for schoolchildren, a season when demand for cricket accessories is at its peak. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Centre issues draft notifying ESZ in Kali Tiger Reserve

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a draft notification declaring 663 sqkm area around Kali Tiger Reserve (Uttara Kannada district) as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

It has invited stakeholders' comments within 60 days, said the notification. The area extending up to 10 km from the boundary of the reserve has been identified as ESZ.

However, no eco-sensitive zone has been demarcated to the north & west due to the presence of adjacent Bhimgad wildlife sanctuary.

In northeast direction, ESZ stretches between 5 and 10 km from boundary. In the east, it ranges from 1 to 7 km. The proposed ESZ comprises 75 sqkm of revenue land, 84 sqkm of revenue villages and 503 sq km forest. After the final notification, the state government will have to prepare a zonal master plan.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 08: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.2	16	00
Bidar	35.6	19.5	00
Vijayapura	36	18	00
Dharwad	33.2	17.6	00
Haveri	34.4	20.4	00
Kalaburagi	38	22.8	00
Raichur	37.2	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.2	20.7	00
Karwar	33.6	22.2	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	34.4	19.1	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	15.6	00
Bengaluru	34.9	22.4	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	34.4	19.1	00
Davangere	35.5	14.5	00
Hassan	33.7	14.6	00
Mysuru	35	19.6	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	35.4	18.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	33.3	20.1	0.4
Kolkata	35.3	19.7	14
Mumbai	31.3	23.6	00
Chennai	33.6	26.4	05
Pune	33.1	19.8	00
Hyderabad	37.2	22.4	00
Th'puram	37.1	26.7	00

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tender through Karnataka Public procurement Portal for Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the work of Development of Sites & Services scheme in Block 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 at Konasandra Bommandahalli villages & Construction of 100 Duplex houses at Suryanagara Phase-4, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban.

Notification No.:
1. CE/PMC/SNR/KHB/2025-26/SE0259/CALL-2 to SE0264/CALL-2 and KHB/2026-27/SE0373 & SE0374 Date: 06.04.2026
2. CE/PMC/100 Houses-Suryanagara Phase-4/KHB/2026-27/SE0376 Date: 07.04.2026

Last date for submission of bid: 21.04.2026 upto 4.00 PM
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/80AKAR/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
TOWN MUNICIPLE COUNCIL BANKAPUR DIST : HAVERI
E-mail : ka.bankapura.tmc@gmail.com Phone No : 08378-25123
Ref:TMCB/ES/SFC SPCL/CR/2025-26 DATE : 04-04-2026

E-Procurement Tender Notification

The Chief officer, Town Municiple council Bankapur Haveri District invites e-tenders for the following Work Indents Under SFC Special Grant 2022-23. Interested Contractor can apply the tender with proper documents from the E-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
(1) The Last Date and Time for receipet of Tender : **20/04/2026** Time 05:30 PM (2) The Last Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **22/04/2026** Time 11:00 AM

SL No.	Indent Number	Estimated cost(Rs. Lakhs)	Tender Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD Amount	Class of contractor	Time Period	Category
SFC Special Grant 2022-23							
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56840	100.00	84.71	169000.00	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು	11 months	Others

Sd/- President, TMC Bankapur **Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC Bankapur**
DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/26/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.
Phone No: 08539 – 222318 email : eepwdkpl2@gmail.com
IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:KW-1&4:2026-27: 65 Date : 07-04-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-3&4 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. Head of Account : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP, KKRDB Macro-General & 3054-04-105-0-01-200 (Non Plan) MDR Bridge Maintenance / 2025-26. **Two cover** Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. **08539 – 222318** and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** 5 Works **(Work Indent No: 32558, 32559, 32560, 34093 & 33275)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **16-04-2026 Time 12.30**. Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **17-04-2026 Time 13.00**. Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **21-04-2026 Time 11.00** (Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount **Rs. 5.00 Lakhs** & **Rs.500.00 Lakhs** respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

Sd/-
EE PWD Division, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/11/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi – 591302

Tender Notification No: KNNL/KPD/KNP/PB/TND/2026-27/43-45 **Date: 06.04.2026.**

SHORT TERM: PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp-portal only)

1. Percentage tender is invited from eligible KPWD registered Contractors **through KPP-Portal** according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Exclusive of GST) (In Lakhs)	Category / Class of Contractors
1	Improvements to road from Beejagarni village to Janewadi village in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/ 2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT4176/Call-2)**	338.81	Class-II & above
2	Improvements to road from Belavatti village to Karle-Kawalewadi Main road in Belagavi Tulaka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT4177/Call-2)**	422.48	Class-II & above
3	Improvements to road from Kudaremani Village main road to Shinoli-Surute main road and Shinoli-Surute main road Sonoli Village limits in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT4178/ Call-2)**	338.84	Class-II & above

2) Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/index.seam** and Filled bids for the above works may be submitted through the KPP portal until **15.04.2026, 4:00 PM.**
3) The Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division Khanapur **on 10.04.2026 at 11.00AM**. Technical bid will be opened on **16.04.2026 at 4.30 PM**.
4) For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi
DIPR/Belagavi/52/2026-27/Deshpandepublicity

Manipur on boil again after bomb attack...

Manipur, From Page 1

As the situation remained volatile, the administration suspended the internet for three days in the five Valley districts: Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Thoubal and Bishnupur. Curfew was also clamped in some areas and additional forces rushed.

The state's new chief minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, who took charge on February 4, quickly decided to hand over the case related to the death of the children to the NIA and appealed to protesters to "remain calm and not to give in to emotions". Singh held a meeting with the MLAs and the security top brass, during which orders were issued for a combing operation in search of the assailants. The Kuki Zo Council (KZC) and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), two influential forums of Kuki civil society organisations, denied the allegations about the involvement of Kukis in the bomb attack. "With buffer zones strictly guarded by security forces, it is highly implausible for any Kuki-Zo individual to infiltrate and carry out such an attack within the interior of Meitei localities," the KZC said in a statement.

Meanwhile, CM Singh held an all-party meeting in Imphal on Tuesday evening in which it was decided to appeal to the public to stop violent protest and destruction of properties

The fresh attack came as a setback to the chief minister's efforts to end the conflict through talks with both the communities. Singh recently met leaders of the KZC in Guwahati. The government is also trying to resettle the people displaced by the conflict. But the Kuki groups have insisted that the resettlement should be kept in abeyance till a political solution is reached by forming a "Union Territory" comprising the Kuki-dominated districts.

Can't treat women untouchable for 3 days: SC judge

Temple entry, From Page 1

Mehta said he has no issue or dispute with that.

"Sabarimala, I will defend in my own different way....Sabarimala does not (say) four days. Sabarimala means a particular age group and let us be very clear if there is any confusion in anyone's mind," he said.

"Lord Ayyappa temples throughout the world are open for all sections of ladies, except one, which is sui generis case," he said.

"If I go to a mazar or go to a gurdwara, and if I have to cover my head, I cannot say that you are taking away my right of choice. This is what Sabarimala says: your right of choice is taken away, your autonomy is taken away. It is not taking away autonomy, it is respecting the tenets, the faith, the belief of that religion," Mehta said.

"When we go to Ajmer Sharif, we cover our heads. When we go to a gurdwara, we do cover our heads," he said.

The Solicitor General emphasised, India has always treated women not only equally but on a higher pedestal and we are uniquely the only culture that bows down to women deities.

Justice Nagarathna observed that if there is a social ill that is branded as a religious practice, the court can distinguish between the two, whether it's a social evil or an essential religious practice.

In its written submissions, the Centre favoured a review of the 2018 Sabarimala judgment, contending it ran contrary to the binding law laid down in the coordinate bench judgment in the Devaru case.

Mehta's submissions stated that in the Sabarimala judgment, the majority opinions not only wrongly declared that Ayyappa devotees do not fall within the definition of denomination but also failed to even deal with the expression 'or a section thereof'.

This, the Centre said, assumes particular importance in the Indian context because religions in India, especially Hinduism, are marked by deep internal diversity.

The Centre said Hinduism has historically accommodated multiple streams of thought, forms of worship, ritual practices, local traditions, philosophical schools, temple traditions and sampradayas and even village deities.

"Therefore, constitutional adjudication must account for plurality within religion and not proceed on the assumption that every religion has only one uniform set of beliefs and practices," it said.

India's fast breeder atomic reactor attains criticality

Key to 2nd stage of country's 3-stage nuclear programme

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has entered the second stage of its nuclear power programme with the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu attaining "criticality", which will pave the way for the generation of electricity from a new class of nuclear power reactors, officials said here on Tuesday.

The criticality or establishment of a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was reached at 8.25 PM on Monday, signalling a key milestone in the indigenous nuclear power programme, as envisaged by Homi Bhabha seven decades ago.

After years of generating electricity from a fleet of pressurised heavy water reactors, the FBR—designed and developed by scientists and engineers at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd—marks the beginning of a new era in the nuclear power programme in which the reactor will "breed" (or produce) more fuel than what it consumes.

Once the technology is established, such reactors will help spread nuclear energy faster at a time when the Centre has fixed a target of 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047. Russia is the only other country to have large operational breeder reactors.

"This advanced reactor, capable of producing more fuel than it consumes, reflects the depth of our scientific capability and the strength of our engineering enterprise. It is a decisive step towards harnessing our vast thorium reserves in the third stage of the programme," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a social media post.

IGCAR and BHAVINI — a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy — have begun pre-project activities on two more FBRs approved by the government.

The Rs 8,181 crore PFBR, however, missed several deadlines in the past 16 years, resulting in a cost escalation by 2.5 times.

Originally, it was to be commissioned by 2010, but the project kept missing deadlines because of complicated technology, complex engineering, and safety concerns, as it uses highly reactive liquid sodium as coolant. At least two generations of scientists have worked on its design and development.

With the achievement of first criticality, India now moves closer to realising the full potential of its three-stage nuclear power programme.

Fast breeder technology forms the vital bridge between the current fleet of PHWRs and the future deployment of thorium-based reactors that seek to utilise abundant thorium resources found in Kerala for long-term clean energy generation.

The FBR uses uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel in which depleted uranium (known as U-238) is used.

The reactor's core is surrounded by a blanket of U-238 that consumes neutrons generated by the chain reaction and turns into fissile plutonium-239, enabling the reactor to produce more fuel than it consumes.

Eventually, the reactor is designed to use thorium-232, which, through a nuclear process called transmutation, will turn into uranium-233—considered the best nuclear fuel—to generate electricity in the third stage of the nuclear power programme.

Energy boost

This marks a key milestone in the indigenous nuclear power programme

It will pave the way for power generation from a new class of reactors

- The advanced reactor is capable of producing more fuel than it consumes
- India now moves closer to realising the full potential of its three-stage nuclear power programme
- Russia is the only other country to have large operational breeder reactors

Voluntary retirement distinct right of employee: SC

Says it's not a mere act of leaving or discontinuing service

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday that voluntary retirement is not a mere act of leaving or discontinuing but is rather a distinct right of an employee that is available on completion of the requisite number of years of service.

A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi delivered its verdict on appeals filed by a bank challenging two separate 2019 orders of the Chhattisgarh High Court.

The high court had issued a direction for the grant of terminal benefits to a bank employee, saying that after the completion of the three-month notice period as specified in the notice for voluntary retirement or from the date of stopping to attend the service, he be treated as voluntarily retired.

The apex court noted that the employee was appointed in September 1983 and was promoted to manager in April 2007.

It said that in July 2010, while working as a branch manager at Raipur, some suspicious transactions came to the knowledge of the bank. In the meantime, the employee sent a notice of voluntary retirement on October 4, 2010, to the general manager, and in response, the zonal office asked for a fresh application under pension regulations.

Later, since the period specified in the notice for voluntary retirement had elapsed, the employee stopped working with the bank with effect from May 16, 2011.

The top court noted that after about eight months from the date when he severed his employment with the bank, he was chargesheeted on March 5, 2012, over the allegedly suspicious transactions.

He later moved the high court, challenging the non-acceptance of voluntary retirement and initiation of inquiry.

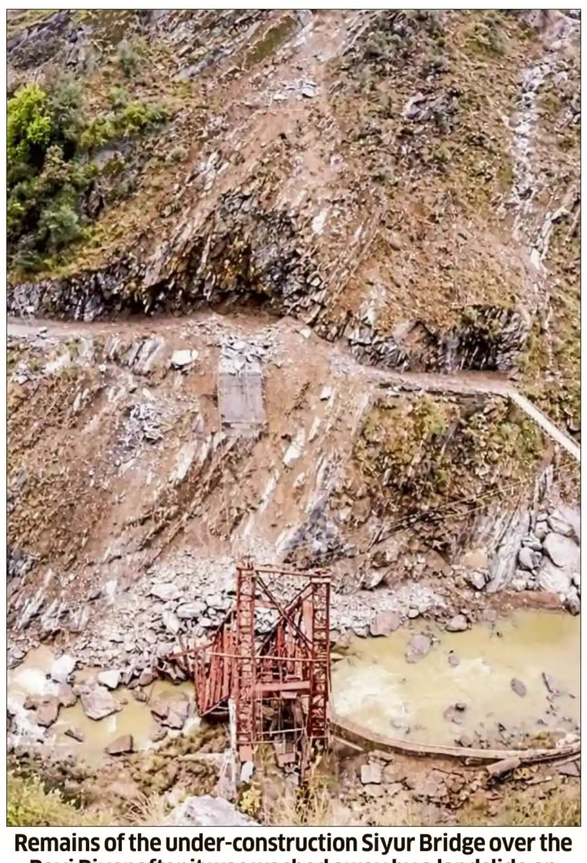
"Upon reading, it is quite clear, if an employee on or after the 1st day of November 1993 completes 20 years of qualifying service and furnishes a notice of not less than three months to the appointing authority, he may retire voluntarily," the bench noted. "Nonetheless, voluntary retirement is not a mere act of leaving or discontinuing, rather, a distinct right of an employee that is available on completion of the requisite number of years of service, etc," it said.

What court says

HC had issued a direction for the grant of terminal benefits to a bank employee

Top court says employees can retire voluntarily after completing the required years of service

RAVAGED REMAINS



Remains of the under-construction Siyur Bridge over the Ravi River after it was washed away by a landslide on the Holi-Bharmour road, in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, on Tuesday. PTI

Probe sought into PSP land allotments in Andhra Pradesh

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Successive governments in Andhra Pradesh — the YSRCP and the current TDP-led NDA alliance — are facing criticism for allotting land for pumped storage projects (PSPs) on a nomination basis rather than through competitive bidding. Some allotments are reportedly in constitutionally protected Scheduled Areas. A probe into these allocations has been sought.

Former senior bureaucrat and former Government of India Secretary EAS Sarma has raised concerns over the practice. He noted that states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Assam appear to follow the Union Ministry of Power's guidelines, while Andhra Pradesh has sidestepped the competitive bidding framework.

Instead, both governments have awarded sites to favoured private promoters through a process lacking transparency and accountability, raising concerns of impropriety and breach of public trust. The previous YSRCP-led government allotted multiple sites, including in Scheduled Areas, to the Adani Group and other private parties. The current TDP–Jana Sena government has followed a similar approach, awarding sites to the Navayuga Group and Chinta Green Group through the same route.

Several allotments are contentious due to their location in Scheduled Areas, where the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) and the Forest Rights Act (FRA) mandate prior consultation with local Adivasi Gram Sabhas before land-use decisions.

Sarma alleged that authorities bypassed these provisions, denying tribal communities their statutory rights. He noted that the Union Ministry of Power introduced guidelines in 2023 to ensure optimal use of water and resources while minimising storage costs.

Referring to the Supreme Court's Samata ruling, he said land in Scheduled Areas should not be alienated to non-tribals or private entities, and alleged that allowing PSPs in such areas violates the apex court's orders.

IMPROPRIETY

- Allotment on a nomination basis rather than through competitive bidding attracts criticism
- Some allotments are reportedly in constitutionally protected Scheduled Areas
- Successive governments have awarded sites to favoured private promoters through a process lacking transparency and accountability

ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
(CIN-UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

ಅಂತಿಮ ಮರುಕರೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಆರ್ ರಾಮಣ್ಣ, ರವರು ಬೆವಿಕಂ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆಕ್ಯಾನಿಕ್ ದರ್ಜೆ–1, ಆಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ನೀವು ಮೇಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಪೂರ್ವಾನುಮತಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.11.2024 ರಿಂದ ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕದವರೆಗೂ ಅನಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಗೈರು ಹಾಜರಾಗಿದ್ದು ನಿಮಗೆ ನೋಟೀಸ್, ಮರುವಾಪಸಾತಿ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತಿಮ ಮರುವಾಪಸಾತಿ ನೋಟೀಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಆರೋಪಣಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರ/ನೋಟೀಸಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸದೇ ಬೇಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಿಂದ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಈ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೊಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 10 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಕಾರಣಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಮುಂದೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವುದು ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ/ಬೆವಿಕಂ ಸಿಡಿಸಿಎ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳನ್ವಯ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ವಜಾಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
(ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ. ಆರ್. ದಯಾನಂದ, ಕ.ಆ.ಸೇ.)
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು,
(ಆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾ.ಸಂ) ಬೆವಿಕಂ ಹಾಗೂ
ಶಿಸ್ತುನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ.

ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ದೂರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ: 1912
ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಮಿತ್ರ Mobile App ಅನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KSMCL/PROD/RFP/2026-27/63 Date: 06.04.2026

e-TENDER INVITATION

KSMCL invites e-Tender for Strategic Consultancy Services for the Transformation of Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited.

Calender of events

Tender Reference No	KSMCL/2026-27/SE0063
Downloading documents from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	From 06/04/2026
Last date for receiving queries	15/04/2026 Up to 5.00 PM
Pre-bid meeting	18/04/2026 at 11.00 AM
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender in E-procurement platform on or before	05/05/2026 Up to 5:00 PM
The Technical Bid will be opened Online by the Authorized Officer on	07/05/2026 at 11:00 AM
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,00,000.00
Address for communication	**General Manager (P) Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited** TTMC, "A" Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Phone: 080-22278813/ 14/15/16

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (P)

DIPR/CP/81/AKAR/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2026-27/11
Date :02.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head for Account 4702 Plan LIS** 02 works in Hosapete Taluk Vijayanagara Dist in Two Cover System **Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.113.28 lakhs and Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.113.29 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 04.04.2026 to 13.04.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 16.04.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 18.04.2026 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/27

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA
(Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2009)
Kadaganchi, Aland road, Kalaburagi-585 367., Phone (08477)-226722
Website: www.cuk.ac.in, Email: registrar@cuk.ac.in

Tender No. CUK/SW/F-02/2024-25/2025-26/02 Date : 02-04-2026

OFFLINE RE-TENDER NOTICE

Offline Re-Tender (Call 3) bids are invited for and on behalf of the Central University of Karnataka from eligible and experienced contractors for execution of the following works at the CUK Campus:

1. Watershed Management Works in approximately 30 acres of Plantation Terrain Area of CUK Campus under the NBCC Project.
2. Lifting and laying black soil in the Pits and Trenches of Plantation area in approximately40 acres of Terrain Area of CUK Campus under the NBCC Project.

The detailed tender document containing scope of work, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, and terms & conditions can be downloaded from the University website: **www.cuk.ac.in**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
West-3	BWSSB/EE (W)-3/TO/PB/ 02/2025-26 Date: 07.04.2026	Rs.24,87,298/- / Rs.49,800/-	21-04-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	22-04-2026 after 4.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-3).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO89/26-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of Head of the Legal Cell, Annex-3 Building, 5th Floor, Bengaluru-560002.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
SLP(C) NO.1039/2021

IN THE MATTER OF :
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangara Palike
By Its Chief Commissioner .....PETITIONER
Versus
Sri. K.K. Umeshkumar and Others ..... RESPONDENTS

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION
NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:

To,
2. Smt. Lijjy
W/o Sharavana
R/at Central Street, Neelasandra,
Bengaluru-560040, Karnataka.

Whereas, the Petitioner above named had filed the above Special Leave Petition Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India against you and Another, seeking this Hon'ble Court to grant special leave to appeal against the impugned judgment and final order dated:10/09/2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru in MFA.No.6470/2025 (MV) (Impugned Judgment).

The appellant has taken substitute of summons / notice to the respondent no.2 by way of ordinary notice and RPAD. Further the BBMP officials went to serve the notice by the Dasti to the given address of the respondent no.2 actually respondent no.2 is not residing there and unable trace to serve the notice. But in spite of that the notice has not been served upon the respondent no.2. Hence this notice is issued by way of paper publication.

That in the circumstances, it is just and necessary that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to direct the office to issue notice at the last known address of the respondent no.2 or in the alternative, direct substituted service by way of public notice/publication in a widely circulated newspaper at the place of residence of the respondent no.2.

Therefore you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on or before: **23/04/2026,** to answer the same, failing which the appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 02nd day of Feb 2026.

(By Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court)
Head of the Legal Cell
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

Advocate for Petitioner
M/S NULI & NULI, ADVOCATE,
Supreme Court of India,
No.1501, 15th Floor, Super Nova, 'Astralis' Plot No.03,
Sector-94, Noida-201301, U.P, Delhi-NCR, India.

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY
Vidyasangama, National Highway – 04, Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi – 591156 (**NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade - 2021**)
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in, **Phone No.:** 0831-2565234/42
Office of the Registrar

Ref No: RCU/Belagavi/RO/BS/2026-27/103 **Date:07.04.2026**

-:Press Note:-
Short Term Tender Notification

The Registrar Rani Channamma University, Belagavi invites short term tender for following work on **07.04.2026**. Desired eligible Bidder may apply before **16.04.2026** by **5.00** PM through KPPP Portal. The work's amount put to tender & EMD details are given as below. For further information kindly visit University website **www.rcub.ac.in** or the Engineering Division at University

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to Tender	EMD
1.	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant with its equipment & External Sewerage lines in the premises of RCU New campus at Hirebagewadi, Belagavi **RCUB/2025-26/WS/WORK_ NDENT15)**	Rs. 4.97 Cr.	Rs. 7,45,500

Sd/-
The Registrar

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/ KFD& NBM/CR-1/2026-27 Date: 06.04.2026

Detailed e-Tender Notice.
(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Short-Term Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having experience for implementation of total 14 Works (Call-1) for Advance works towards formation of plantation and maintenance and maintenance of saplings under KFDF Scheme 98 (Call-2) works, Approx. total Rs. 7.37 crores and NBM Scheme of 14 (Call-1) works Approx. total Rs. 62.20 Lakhs in various places in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 13.04.2026 up to 5.20 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/41/04/44

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಪುತ್ತೂರು, ದ.ಕ
ಕಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮೈದಾನ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪುತ್ತೂರು, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ–574201
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.putturcity.mrc.gov.in ಇಮೇಲ್: co.puttur.cmc@gmail.com
ಪು.ನ.ಸ/ವಿ.ನಿ/07/ತಾಂ.ವಿ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್/06/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/04/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಪುತ್ತೂರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಒಟ್ಟು: 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. **(1) Pre Bid Meeting** ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13/04/2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ: 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಪುತ್ತೂರು ಕಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮೈದಾನ ಕೋರ್ಟು ರಸ್ತೆ ಪುತ್ತೂರು **(2) Tender Queries/Clarifications** ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13/04/2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ: 11.30 ಗಂಟೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 21/04/2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ: 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ. (4) ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 23/04/2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ: 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (5) ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 27/04/2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ: 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (6) ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ GST ಯನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿದ ದರವನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸುವುದು. (7) ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯನ್ನು ಕೊರಿಜೆಂಡಮ್ /ಅಡೆಂಡಮ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: ಪುತ್ತೂರು ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಿಂಗೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಕೆರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬ್ರ: **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56287,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 373.95 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ಪುತ್ತೂರು
ಸಹಿ/–, ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ ಪುತ್ತೂರು
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/42/26-27 dt. 07.04.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, # 217, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110

ಸಂ:ಉನಿ/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾ/ಸಿಆರ್–ಹೊ.ಗು.ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ :06.04.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯ/ ಆಶ್ರಮ ಶಾಲೆ/ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ಕಿತ್ತೂರು ರಾಣಿ ಚೆನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ಡಾ।। ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ ಅಟಲ್ ಬಿಹಾರಿ ವಾಜಪೇಯಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಇಂದಿರಾಗಾಂಧಿ/ಏಕಲವ್ಯ ಮಾದರಿಯ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಭೋದಕ/ಭೋದಕೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ/ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯ/ ಆಶ್ರಮ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು/ ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ಕಿತ್ತೂರು ರಾಣಿ ಚೆನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ ಅಟಲ್ ಬಿಹಾರಿ ವಾಜಪೇಯಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಇಂದಿರಾಗಾಂದಿ/ಏಕಲವ್ಯ ಮಾದರಿಯ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಭೋದಕ/ಭೋದಕೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.04.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ. ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ನಂ.217, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು–562110. ದೂ.ಸಂ0129787447/9632526296 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರೇಮ.ಟಿ.ಎಲ್.ಎಸ್ ರವರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/77/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ /2026–27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Death penalty: No justice in retribution

The death penalty awarded to the nine policemen convicted for the 2020 custodial killing of a father-son duo in Sathankulam, in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu, is rare and inhumane. The killing presents no compelling case for the death penalty, though it was a crime that involved exceptional cruelty – the men were detained, tortured, and killed for violating Covid lockdown restrictions, a charge that was later found to be false. There was extreme custodial violence and clear abuse of authority, but these transgressions still do not make it the rarest of rare cases, which, according to the Supreme Court, should invite the death penalty. Custodial killings are not rare in India, as reflected in official and independent reports that underline alarming numbers and call for systemic reform. To sanction the killing of the convicted policemen for their act amounts to answering a wrong with another wrong.

The Madurai court said if ordinary citizens had committed the crime, it would have invited ordinary punishment, underlining that here, the police were convicted of the killings. By drawing this parallel, the court implies that the case called for extraordinary punishment. But that contention inherently validates unequal punishment for equal crimes, which the country's justice system does not approve of. It also extends a flawed rationale that death for the convicts would deter custodial torture and killing. Multiple studies have concluded that the death sentence does not prevent crimes. Real deterrence is ensured not by the severity of punishment, but by its certainty. The conviction of the accused police officers was a welcome and uncommon judgment, considering police officers rarely face consequences for custodial torture and killings. But the death sentence dilutes the strong messaging of that ruling.

The court extends the flawed logic of death as deterrence and undermines the reformation objective

Capital punishment is not the answer to any crime, however heinous. Justice is not made of retribution. No enlightened system of justice should be based on revenge, calling for an eye for an eye. Its aim should be the reformation of the criminal. Over 100 countries have abolished capital punishment, and a few others are actively considering it. Some countries that have the death penalty in their statutes have suspended its use. India should abolish it. Unfortunately, the calls for instant punishment are getting shriller in the country. India's courts must resist this trend and set the tone for a judicial approach reaffirming that death to the criminal does not further the cause of real justice.

Learnings from a taxation misstep

The Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) abrupt withdrawal of its proposed road-user fee, announced in the 2026-27 budget, is a cautionary tale for civic bodies on how not to design urban taxation. Technically, the Corporation was on firm legal footing. Section 103-B of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, empowers urban bodies to levy an infrastructure cess on motor vehicles, independent of the state's road tax. The Supreme Court, too, has consistently held that such levies – when tied to specific services – constitute a "compensatory fee" rather than double taxation. However, legality alone cannot rescue a policy that appears arbitrary and divorced from public sentiment.

The most glaring flaw lay in its architecture. The cess, though ostensibly vehicle-based, was to be collected through the Property Identification Number, rather than the Transport Department's database. This presumption – that property ownership correlates with vehicle ownership – was plainly unscientific. A user fee, by definition, must be linked to actual usage. The primary grievance, however, was the perception of unfairness. Citizens already pay a hefty lifetime tax at the point of registration, alongside tolls and parking fees. The proposal was widely seen as forcing them to pay twice for the same service – basic road maintenance – particularly when the city's infrastructure falls short of expectations. Equally significant is the context in which this budget was framed. Mysuru has been without an elected council since November 2023, with the Corporation currently overseen by an administrator. Policies framed by bureaucratic calculation tend to be technocratic, lacking the calibration that comes from direct public engagement. The swift backlash – and swifter withdrawal – underscores the risks of governance that is procedurally sound but politically tone-deaf. It also serves as a warning for Bengaluru, which continues to function without an elected municipal body.

Mysuru's revoked road-user fee shows how even legally valid taxes fail without public engagement

None of this diminishes the Corporation's need to augment its own revenues. Urban infrastructure requires sustained funding, and reliance on state transfers is neither sufficient nor sustainable. For a city like Mysuru, with its substantial tourist inflow – peaking at tens of lakhs during Dasara – the answer lies in smarter, less intrusive revenue models. A modest heritage cess on tourist attractions, dynamic parking strategies, or festival-linked commercial levies can generate significant funds without burdening residents. Direct taxes like a road-user fee, however well-intentioned, will always invite resistance if they are poorly designed and inadequately justified. The lesson from Mysuru is clear: urban taxation must not only be legal; it must be logical, transparent, and anchored in public trust.

AN UNEQUAL ORDER

The world pays for the wealth of a few

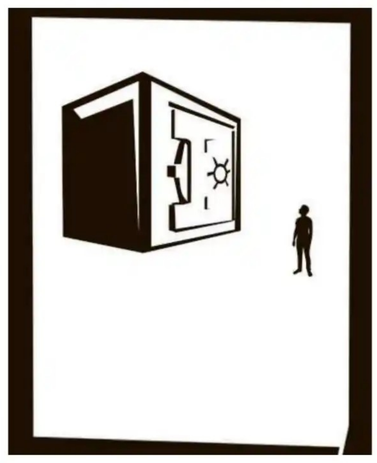
Hidden trillions of the super-rich worsen inequality, exposing the dangers of economic models that reward greed

JAGDISH RATTANANI

A new report by Oxfam has brought to focus unaccounted wealth stashed away by the world's super-rich in tax havens and called on governments to strengthen taxation systems, increase financial transparency, and move towards creating a global asset register to identify, track, and tax at higher rates the wealth of the richest individuals. The British-founded non-profit known for its inequality studies reported that untaxed wealth hidden offshore by the richest 0.1% exceeds the entire wealth of the poorest half of humanity, which comprises 4.1 billion people. Ten years after the so-called Panama Papers leaked a trail of wealth avoidance by some of the world's wealthiest individuals, "the super-rich continue to exploit offshore systems to evade taxes and conceal assets, highlighting the urgent need for coordinated international action to tax extreme wealth and end the use of tax havens", the report said. Oxfam calculated the loot to be of the order of $3.5 trillion in 2024, an amount higher than the GDP of France and more than twice the combined GDP of the world's 44 least developed countries. It is also about 85% of the GDP of India.

The numbers paint a grim picture of the power and control exercised by a super-minority of the super-rich, leading to an unprecedented concentration of wealth that inflicts structural violence and in-your-face manifest violence that is tearing society apart – a toxic mix of economic violence and the concentration of wealth, which then fuels and funds armed conflict of the kind the Israel-US are now engaged in against Iran. In a reinforcing feedback loop, the war machine feeds into the digital-military-industrial complex that profits as enemies are conjured up and destroyed in what are mostly one-sided, push-button wars that have killed an untold number of innocent citizens.

The thinking that delivers violence across borders brings violence within borders, evident in the rising inequity and inequality that erodes opportunity, reduces life expectancy, and most severely affects the poor, women and girls, and radicalised groups. Consider Oxfam data that 20 of the richest billionaires are estimated on average to emit 8,000 times more carbon than a billion of the poorest. Further, economic sanctions have brought misery that may be worse than overt killing by the war machine: a much-cited report by the journal Lancet last year noted that unilateral economic sanctions lead to about 564,000 excess deaths around the world each year. The study analysed the health impact of economic sanctions using a dataset of age-specific mortality rates and sanctions events for 152 countries from 1971 to 2021.



Lens on the India model

While the Oxfam report should shock the conscience and initiate corrective actions globally, it also carries special implications for India. India has witnessed growing inequality, fuelled by policies that created a new class of the super-rich who wield undue influence in policymaking. The 2024 working paper ('Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj') by Thomas Piketty and others from the World Inequality Lab reported that "India's modern bourgeoisie is now more unequal than the British Raj", wondering "how long such inequality levels can sustain without major social and political upheaval". The paper detailed data that showed the rise of top-end inequality has been particularly pronounced in terms of wealth concentration between 2014-15 and 2022-23. But it is a sign of the times that the report did not stir policy debates, let alone action, and remains a forgotten red flag as India pushes ahead with its goal of expanding from the fourth to the third-largest economy.

Following the dominant American narratives and mimicking its politics of domination or its business lessons of unbridled shareholder capitalism — while mouthing pious but hollow approaches to equity, sustainability, or fairness — will erode the Indian ethos. It will tear apart the oft-cited values of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and lead to a plunder of resources and all the attendant ills that undue wealth concentration has brought to the United States and its policymaking. What the Oxfam global report shows is a failing global order, a tear in the social fabric, and the inevitability of violence that will eventually consume not just the poor but also the rich and the super-rich. Rewarding greed while ignoring moral obligations central to issues like fairness or distributive justice has a practical downside.

This offers a different lens and raises concerns about India's newfound closeness to the US and Israel. While presented as a strategic geopolitical partnership, this closeness also carries the burden of buying into the American ideological Kool-Aid and ceding India's wealth of wisdom to a policy machine that eventually has only interests, not friends. India's model, therefore, cannot be the failed US model with its rising inequality and growing structural violence within its borders and military violence outside.

Yet, the signs of rising inequality are everywhere in India today. From private equity increasingly ruling hospitals to galloping fees at schools run in air-conditioned rooms, from unemployed youth in poorly paid food-delivery jobs to the deteriorating condition of public hospitals, passenger trains, and buses, India runs the risk of deteriorating from a socialist set-up to a would-be market economy after the 1991 economic reforms, and now to a *de facto* market society. As Prof Michael Sandel explains, a market society is one in which everything can be bought for a price, whereas a market economy is a tool for organising productive activity. This cannot be the destiny of India, where *dharma* comes before *artha*.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Reading the fine print, missing the cue

We welcomed the gifts, only to rue the clutter they brought

SHRIKANT VANAHALLI

Recently, I received an invite from one of my old friends for his daughter's wedding reception. At the bottom of the invitation card was a note in fine print: 'No gifts or bouquets, please. Your presence is the blessing'. I heaved a sigh of relief—not because I could not afford a gift for the occasion but because of the trouble that the man had saved himself from.

I remember the house-warming ceremony of our dream house a few years back. The number of guests, including all our near and dear ones, ran into hundreds, as we could not afford to ignore anyone who had invited us in the past—even if that invitation had come a decade or two earlier. With no fine print about wishes and blessings in vogue then, we were happy and amused to receive colourful bouquets and neatly wrapped gifts that day, only to curse our misfortune two days later for the very same reason: the gifts and bouquets.

Every display place in the new house was filled with idols of various deities, all smiling at us, with Ganesha presiding over the lot. The lilies and gerberas, which had adorned every corner in beautiful bouquets just two days earlier, were now drooping. Little flowers and ornamental grass lay scattered everywhere, unmindful of the freshly polished floor. Gift wrappers were strewn all around.

My wife—not to mention the maid—kept cursing her misfortune over the ordeal she was undergoing in the new house for the next two days. She nagged, "You had to call everyone, didn't you? Who will come to clear all this mess now?" I could not disagree with her.

So naturally, I was happy to be spared the task of choosing a gift—crockery or curios, wall hangings or idols. I presented myself at the wedding reception of my friend's daughter in my best attire, empty-handed, only to be surprised to see many of my friends carrying colourful bouquets and gifts. I smiled sheepishly at them, my hands firmly tucked into my trouser pockets. I whispered into the ear of a close friend, "There was a note in the invitation. Did you see it?"

He replied casually, "Yeah, it was in the fine print. So I ignored it. In fact, it reminded me not to forget to carry a gift."

Though it embarrassed me, his reply did not amuse me. I was sure my host friend would thank me two days later for having heeded his sensible note on the burden of clutter. But as I stepped down from the stage after wishing the newlyweds, my friend hugged me, thanked me, and exclaimed, "The gift you brought for my son's wedding last year was great!"

Was that his way of reminding me that I had taken the fine print a bit too seriously?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stricter laws no guarantee against crime

Custodial deaths, honour killings and gang rapes have been weighing heavily on the nations' conscience. Despite stronger laws, there appears to be no sign of these crimes decreasing. In this context, custodial deaths in police stations, perpetrated by the police themselves, are perhaps the most heinous. In a landmark verdict, a Madurai court awarded the death sentence to nine police personnel convicted in the custodial death of a father and son in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu (9 TN cops get death penalty in custodial death case, Apr 7). Another disturbing factor is that victims are often from marginalised sections of society. While pronouncing the verdict, the judge observed that the death penalty was the most appropriate punishment, as life imprisonment would not instil fear among police personnel. The tragic irony is that little seems to have changed. Reports indicate around 20 alleged custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu between 2021 and 2026.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Power to silence?

Apropos 'When oversight risks erosion of rights' (Apr 7), the proposed amendments to the digital media ethics rules—which seek to bring social media news-related content creators, including YouTubers, reel makers, users on X, and even cartoonists and satirists, under government oversight—represent yet another assault on citizens' fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. At a time when much of the mainstream and corporatised digital media appears compromised, people are increasingly turning to independent online presenters for balanced, critical, and grounded perspectives on current events. The proposed regulations would only expand the government's powers to silence voices it deems to be in "bad taste", under the guise of promoting ethical reporting. Many online creators may be forced into pre-censorship to comply with these onerous rules, effectively compelling them to toe the government line. The proposals are regressive, anti-democratic and appear designed to instil fear. They must be opposed.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Fruit exports on thin ice

The disruption of mango, pomegranate, grapes, bananas, papaya and guava exports from Karnataka's heartland exposes a systemic fragility in India's agricultural strategy. Reliance on volatile corridors such as West Asia has left growers vulnerable to geopolitical shocks beyond their control. Diversifying to markets such as the UK and Canada is a start. But without government-backed insurance against regional conflicts and subsidised cold-chain logistics, farmers remain at the mercy of middlemen and cash-flow uncertainty.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

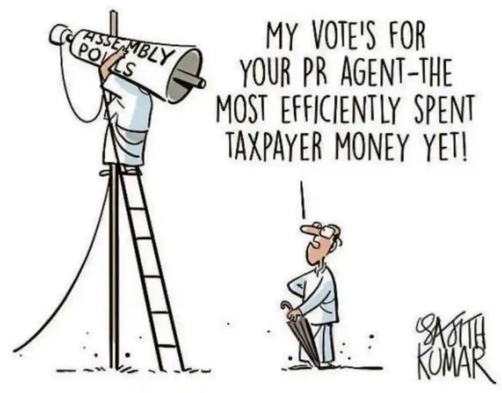
... Lakhs of names have been removed (in West Bengal electoral rolls); this shows how governments were being formed in the past. This (SIR) is a transparent and open process. There's nothing new in it...

Kangana Ranaut, BJP Lok Sabha MP

I've come to learn there is a virtuous cycle of transparency and a very vicious cycle of obfuscation.

Jeff Weiner

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Rethinking access to India's courts

Mandatory practice requirements and inaccessible court infrastructure stall the promise of an inclusive judiciary

ARUSHI SINGH

Picture a bright law graduate and wheelchair user who dominated every moot court competition in law school, aspiring to join the Indian Judicial Service, only to be barred by a mandatory requirement demanding three years' practice in courts with rigid infrastructure and inflexible surroundings.

The Bhumika Trust case follows closely on the heels of the Supreme Court's ruling in *All India Judges Association and others v. Union of India and others*, which prescribes mandatory three years' practice at the bar to acquire eligibility to appear in judicial examinations. The petition in *Bhumika Trust* argues that this mandatory requirement discriminates against aspirants with disabilities and creates employment barriers.

While the mandatory requirement stems from the Court's intention to provide aspirants with practical litigation experience, the case raises several constitutional and logistical concerns.

In *Vikash Kumar v. UPSC*, the Supreme Court reshaped the principle of reasonable accommodation into the State's positive obligation. The Court emphasised that reasonable differentiation, as a primary constituent of equality, recognises the dissimilar needs of persons with disabilities, forging the way for substantive equality. More recently, the Court reaffirmed this duty, noting that reasonable accommodation for one can enhance the overall access for all.

In 2024, the Supreme Court's Accessibility Report offered a glimpse into the Court's functional and infrastructural accessibility. On a similar tangent, PACTA released an *Access to Justice Report* in 2025 that reflects the woeful gaps in the accessibility of infrastructure in India's high courts. The report suggests a general absence of data on the availability and functionality of lifts and ramps across high courts, and no mechanism exists to monitor compliance with accessibility standards. This report is based on Principle 2 of the 2020 UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, which calls for universally accessible facilities and services to ensure equal access to justice without discrimination.

The infrastructural gaps discussed in the PACTA report and in *Bhumika Trust* result in structural limitations. These limitations reveal the judiciary's willingness to hire, despite its reticence to adapt its physical framework, making reasonable accommodation a systematic precondition for inclusion in the profession itself. Given that the Supreme Court has tried to lay down comprehensive jurisprudence on uniform accessibility and reasonable accommodation in recent years, the *Bhumika Trust* case exposes the Court's anxiety and its reluctant ableism in balancing uniform judicial standards against demands for inclusion.

This intersection of accessibility in courts and equality is central to the legitimacy of the judiciary, not just a peripheral concern. Andrea Parente writes that a framework achieves disability specialisation when elements of disability justice needs are included and represented, requiring systems to learn from the intended beneficiaries of such infrastructure.

However, reasonable accommodation has mostly been treated as an add-on requirement rather than a foundational necessity. Thus, there is a need to move beyond the narrow construction of disability specialisation. *Bhumika Trust* emphasises Parente's key insight: without judicial systems learning from the lived experiences of disability, court spaces will remain welcoming in theory but inaccessible in practice.

Substantive equality

The capabilities approach states that people lead an effective life when they can do and be what they value. However, if everyone must achieve equality of capability, each person must have the same equality of opportunity. This approach reveals the gap between formal and substantive equality in *Bhumika Trust*.

On substantive equality, Sandra Fredman argues for valuing identity differences rather than forcing assimilation to dominant norms. This warrants systemic transformation to accommodate diverse needs. The argument also alludes to persons with disabilities holding multiple marginalised identities. Hence, notions of substantive equality must be genuinely incorporated when issuing such mandatory requirements.

The *Bhumika Trust* case is a stark reminder that without accessible infrastructure, rights remain an abstract and distant dream. The role of the judiciary is not only to equip the new generation of lawyers with the practical nitty-gritty of the profession, but also to engage with the limitations entrenched within the system. However, this underscores the urgent need to transform court systems to expand real freedoms and adapt their structures to diverse identities and bodies.

In that endeavour, inclusion demands transformation and not just tokenism. Such efforts warrant the co-creation of solidarities of awareness, allyship, and collective responsibility, moving beyond cultures of empathy to actively redesigning legal spaces and reshaping our understanding of them.

(The writer teaches law at the O P Jindal Global University)

Who really gets to compete? The gender debate in sport

PRITI RANA AND AMNA MIRZA

When global sporting bodies tighten eligibility rules for women's events, it is rarely just a technical adjustment. It reopens a deeper and more uncomfortable debate. Who qualifies as a woman athlete? Who decides, and on what grounds? Recent policy shifts across international sport have once again pushed these questions into public view. Federations such as World Athletics and World Aquatics have introduced stricter regulations on participation in women's categories, while the International Olympic Committee has moved towards a more flexible, sport-specific framework. The reactions have been immediate and polarised. Some view these changes as necessary to preserve fairness; others see them as exclusionary. The debate, however, is far more layered than these positions suggest.

Sport has always depended on classification to ensure meaningful competition—whether by age, weight, or gender. Yet gender has emerged as the most contested of these divisions. The inclusion of transgender athletes, particularly trans women, has unsettled long-standing assumptions. Critics argue that athletes who have experienced male puberty may retain physiological advantages in strength and endurance. Supporters counter that participation is not simply about competition but about dignity, recognition, and the right to belong. Can sport accommodate both concerns without undermining its core principles? Or are fairness and inclusion, in this context, fundamentally at odds?

The International Olympic Committee attempted to address this tension through its 2021 Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination. Rather than imposing universal testosterone thresholds, it shifted towards a model that allows individual sports to define their own criteria. While this approach acknowledges complexity, it has also led to fragmentation. Different federations now operate under different standards, creating uncertainty for athletes and raising questions about consistency. If fairness is a universal principle, should it not be governed by universal rules?

Scientific evidence, often invoked as an objective basis for policymaking, offers no easy resolution. Research on performance differences following gender transition remains contested and incomplete. The case of Caster Semenya highlights these tensions. In 2019, the Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld regulations requiring certain athletes with differences of sex development to reduce their testosterone levels to compete in women's events. The ruling acknowledged that the regulations were discriminatory, yet deemed them necessary to preserve competitive fairness. This paradox lies at the heart of the current debate. When does regulation become intrusion? At what point does the pursuit of fairness justify intervention into an athlete's body?

The authority of sporting institutions has expanded significantly in this context. Organisations such as World Athletics are no longer merely regulating competition; they are defining eligibility in ways that shape identity itself. Recent restrictions on transgender participation and the exploration of alternative categories, including open divisions, reflect both caution and uncertainty. These decisions are often framed as technical, but their implications are deeply social. Should sporting bodies have the power to determine who belongs in a given category, or does this extend beyond their mandate?

Public discourse has only intensified these tensions. Media coverage frequently reduces complex issues to binary oppositions, amplifying conflict while sidelining nuance. Athletes at the centre of these debates are rarely treated as individuals. Instead, they become symbols of broader ideological struggles. The question is worth asking. Are we debating sport, or are we projecting wider societal anxieties onto it? The intensity of the reactions suggests that gender in sport has become a proxy for deeper concerns about identity, norms, and change.

These debates also reveal uneven global dynamics. Athletes from the Global South often find themselves disproportionately affected by regulatory interventions. Limited access to legal resources, disparities in institutional support, and the geopolitics of international sport all shape how policies are experienced on the ground. The prominence of cases involving African and Asian athletes raises uncomfortable questions about whose bodies are subject to scrutiny and whose are accepted without question. Fairness, in this sense, cannot be understood purely in biological terms. It is also shaped by power.

The limitations of existing frameworks are becoming increasingly evident. The binary model of gender classification, long treated as self-evident, is now under strain. At the same time, viable alternatives remain underdeveloped. Some federations have begun to explore more flexible approaches, including sport-specific criteria and the possibility of open categories. These efforts are tentative and far from universally accepted, but they signal a recognition that static models may no longer suffice. The challenge lies in developing policies that are both empirically grounded and ethically defensible.

At its core, the debate is about fairness, but fairness itself is not a fixed or neutral concept. Sport has always accommodated forms of inequality. Genetic advantages, access to training facilities, and technological resources all shape outcomes, yet they are rarely subjected to the same level of scrutiny. Why, then, does gender provoke such intense regulation? What is it about this category that demands constant policing? Perhaps because it unsettles deeper assumptions about identity and difference that extend far beyond the playing field.

The current moment is unlikely to produce definitive answers. As scientific understanding evolves and social perspectives shift, sport will continue to grapple with these questions. The challenge is not to eliminate disagreement but to engage with it constructively. This requires moving beyond reactive policymaking towards frameworks that are transparent, inclusive, and adaptable.

The issue is not simply who gets to compete. It is how fairness is defined in a context where definitions themselves are in flux. Sport, often seen as a domain of clear rules and measurable outcomes, is being asked to navigate ambiguity. Whether it can do so without losing its integrity remains an open question.

(Priti is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, and Amna is an associate professor at SPM College, University of Delhi)

With anyone — not just engineers — able to spin up software ideas in a matter of hours, companies are trying to figure out how to deal with the glut

The Big Bang: AI has created a code overload

MIKE ISAAC AND ERIN GRIFFITH

When a financial services company recently began using Cursor, an artificial intelligence technology that writes computer code, the difference that it made was immediate.

The company went from producing 25,000 lines of code a month to 250,000 lines. That created a backlog of one million lines of code that needed to be reviewed, said Joni Klippert, a co-founder and the CEO of StackHawk, a security startup that was working with the financial services firm.

"The sheer amount of code being delivered, and the increase in vulnerabilities, is something they can't keep up with," she said. And as software development moved faster, that forced sales, marketing, customer support and other departments to pick up the pace, Klippert added, creating "a lot of stress."

Since AI coding tools from Anthropic, OpenAI, Cursor and other companies took off last year, one result has now become apparent: code overload.

Aided by these tools, tech workers are producing so much code so quickly that it has become too much to handle. With anyone — not just engineers — able to spin up software ideas in a matter of hours, companies are trying to figure out how to deal with the glut.

In Silicon Valley, many tech workers see this moment as a new reality they must adapt to as companies incorporate AI tools into daily work. Some said the tools granted them coding superpowers, allowing them to spend more time coming up with software ideas instead of doing the arduous work of building it.

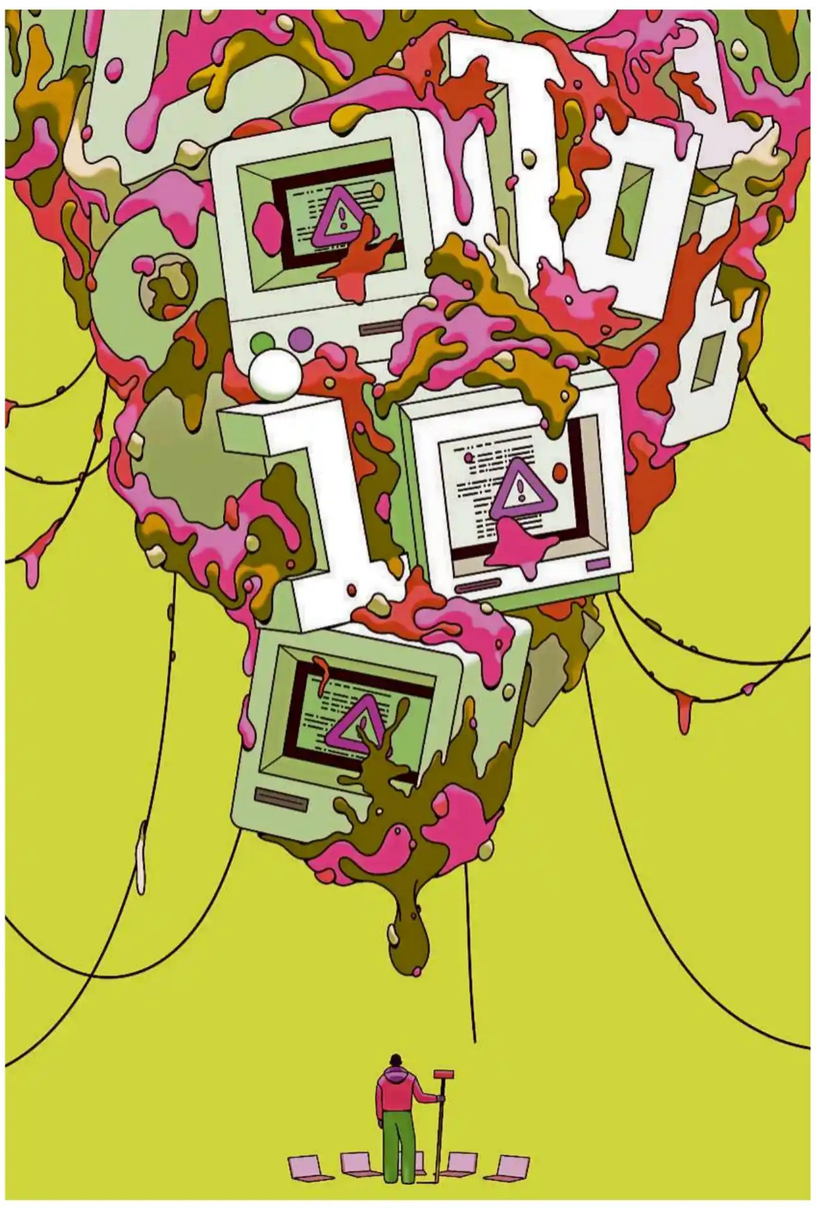
At the same time, there are not enough engineers to review the explosion of code for mistakes. Recruiters are increasingly looking to hire senior engineers who have experience spotting errors in code and can monitor the software for risks. Open source software projects, which anyone can contribute to, have been inundated with AI-enabled additions. And sometimes flaws in the code can lead to security vulnerabilities or software that crashes.

"The blessing and the curse is that now everyone inside your company becomes a coder," said Michele Catasta, the president and head of AI at Replit, an AI coding startup in Foster City, California.

In a survey released by Google in September, the company found that 90% of software developers reported using AI to help them work, while 71% who write code used AI to help them.

The widespread use of the tools has led to fears that AI can replace many engineers. Tech companies including Pinterest, Block and Atlassian have cut thousands of jobs in recent months, citing efficiencies created by AI. "Projects that once required hundreds of engineers can now be done by tens," Andrew Bosworth, Meta's chief technology officer, told employees this year in an internal memo, which was reviewed by *The New York Times*. "Work that used to take months can now take days." He added that AI had "profound consequences for how organisations like Meta should work."

Not long ago, the process of turning ones and zeros into computer programs was very different. Engineers pored over complicated computer languages to commit them to memory. They might write a few dozen lines of vetted, bulletproof code a day.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

But AI advancements brought the rise of agents, a kind of AI-powered robot that can create software largely on its own. Early versions of these agents, including from startups like Cursor, showed promise. Then in November, coding agents levelled up. Anthropic and OpenAI, the leading AI startups, released updated versions of the software that powers their respective coding tools, Claude Code and Codex.

The change, tech workers soon discovered, upgraded the agents from occasionally helpful engineering partners to full-fledged code-generating wizards. With just a little human guidance, an engineer could set an AI agent loose writing a program in a fraction of the time that human coders would need. What came next was a deluge of code. Many tech companies are now dealing with the ripple effects. Someone has to review the AI-generated code to test it for bugs, security and compliance. But it can sometimes be unclear whose job it is to fix issues created by AI-generated code. In the past, it would be the responsibility of the person who created the code.

Companies are struggling to hire enough people to monitor the AI code for risks, a role called application security engineer. "There are not enough application security engineers on the planet to satisfy what just American companies need," said Joe Sullivan, an adviser to Costanoa Ventures, a Silicon Valley venture firm. The large companies he works with would add five to 10 more people in this role if they could, he said.

Other problems are quirkier. AI coding tools work better on laptops than in web-based environments stored on secure servers owned by companies like Amazon and Microsoft. That means more engineers are downloading their entire company's code to their laptops, creating a security risk if the laptop goes missing, Sullivan said.

"That's an example of a crazy risk no one thought of six months ago that they're trying to solve right now," he said.

Sachin Kamdar, a co-founder of Elvex, an AI agent startup, said he created a rule around 16 months ago that all of the company's code needed to be reviewed by a human. Otherwise, problems would be harder to fix because no one would understand the work that AI had done.

"It's just going to break something, and they're not going to know why it broke," he said.

At companies that accept code contributions, the AI effect has become clear. Steve Ruiz, founder of the digital whiteboard startup Tldraw, said he first noticed last fall that more people were trying to add to the code base of his company. (Tldraw licenses its technology, but it publishes its code and takes contributions to it.)

Ruiz said the new contributors acted oddly. Some did all the work but abandoned the code just before signing a form at the end of the process. Others ignored clear instructions or contributed a spammy barrage of updates.

Ruiz concluded the contributors were probably AI bots, which were too much to manage. In January, he closed Tldraw to outsiders.

"The risk to the code base was very high," he said, adding that the onslaught could have put his team, its community and the project's reputation in jeopardy. Open source projects and coding platforms like GitHub are figuring out how to handle the new reality, he said.

For some in Silicon Valley, the solution to the code bloat seems obvious: more AI.

Anthropic and OpenAI pointed to recent product releases, including their AI-powered software review agents that are used to spot errors in code. (*The Times* has sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement of news content related to AI systems. The companies have denied those claims.)

In December, Cursor bought Graphite, a startup that builds code-reviewing bots. The company is incorporating Graphite's technology into an offering to help engineers prioritise the most sensitive code that needs vetting.

Tido Carriero, Cursor's head of engineering, product and design, said the most advanced companies had figured out what to do about the AI-generated code eruption and were now focused on adapting their businesses to this new way of working. Cursor is building products to help with that, too, he said.

"The software development factory kind of broke," he said. "We're trying to rearrange the parts in some sense."

The New York Times

Of kings and vultures

MELANIE P KUMAR

When speaking of kings, the mind goes back to a film based on a Rudyard Kipling novella titled *The Man Who Would Be King*. The story line involves two rogue ex-soldiers from 19th-century British India who set off on an adventure, winding up in distant Kafiristan. Since no white man had set foot there before and by a quirk of circumstance, one of them is taken for a god and installed as a king. What follows is the 'king' beginning to enjoy the adulation of the locals, settling their disputes and even cultivating the fanciful dream of meeting the then-reigning queen, Victoria, as her equal. Needless to say, there has to be a reckoning, and it does come, with the film ending in quite a macabre fashion, with the so-called king's skull finally discovered with a crown.

The film brings back memories of present times when many of the world's democratically elected leaders seem to have kingly notions about themselves. The dictionary term for a king is mentioned as a male monarch of a territory, whose position is hereditary and who enjoys the right to rule for life.

Clearly, the people of the United States of America had something in mind when they organised the "No Kings" protests after Donald Trump's second term. The first round of protests was held on June 14, 2025, to coincide with Trump's birthday and the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the US Army.

The second of the "No Kings" protests took place in October 2025, and the most recent and hugely attended one occurred on March 28, 2026, as a response to the administration's immigration enforcement tactics and the war in Iran. More than 3,000 events were planned nationwide, with some more on the cards, including in Mexico and Canada. On their website, the organisers explain, "The president thinks his rule is absolute. But in America, we don't have kings – and we won't back down against chaos, corruption, and cruelty."

At home, where lip service is regularly paid to democracy and the Constitution by the prime minister and his ministers, one can see a glaring gap between what is spoken and what is practised.

In February, the Opposition and transparency activists expressed their unhappiness over the Union government denying information to Parliament on the PM CARES Fund, and the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. An *Indian Express* report had cited anonymous sources that had said that the PMO had asked the Lok Sabha Secretariat to not permit questions from MPs on these funds as they were "constituted entirely with voluntary public contribution and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India." Most people may be suffering from memory lapses, as during Covid times, a day's salary was compulsorily deducted from central and state government employees, while the erstwhile PM's Relief Fund, which worked on voluntary contributions, quietly exited from the scene.

The Opposition accused the government of turning these funds into "private fiefdoms" with the possibility of being able to slowly convert them into Electoral Bonds Scheme 2.0. The questioning on these schemes was duly silenced. Oddly, the Opposition did not get called derogatory names by the members of the ruling party at the Centre over the querying on a blocking that was more king-like than democratic in its application.

In present times, the leading Opposition party, the Congress has been called "political vultures" by the PM, for their questioning of the gas crisis in the country, accusing them of instigating people by spreading fears and rumours. Even before the Opposition had started their questioning, the smart public of India had realised about the gas shortages, when bookings refused to go through, and hotels went public about their inability to procure commercial cylinders.

While a vulture has its own valuable role to play in the food chain, the term has largely become a derogatory one, to describe someone who capitalises on a situation, for personal gain, or evil intent.

By this yardstick, the one who would rightly be eligible for this epithet would be the present president of the United States, who first swooped down on Venezuela and has now attacked Iran, defying all the sovereign rights of a nation to live in peace and harmony.

It is surprising, however, that there has not been condemnation about his actions by the Prime Minister of India. If anybody deserves to be called "vulture" it is certainly the POTUS, who has spread turmoil across the world, by his overarching actions. If one must call a spade a spade; a king a king, or in this case, a vulture a vulture, it is suggested that one dig into the syntax and apply it in the right context.

(The author is an independent writer and a keen observer of world politics)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Urs cautions against Hindi imposition

New Delhi, April 7
The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, said here yesterday that only Hindi could serve as the national language and foster unity, but cautioned that it should be propagated in non-Hindi speaking areas through persuasion rather than compulsion. He said Hindi was the only language in the country which was spoken and understood by the largest number of people. Mr. Urs said every child in the country should be taught three languages: mother-tongue, Hindi and English.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Koujalgi quits as State Cong chief

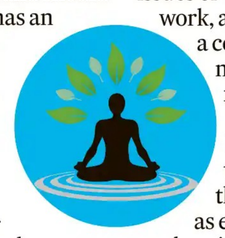
Bangalore, April 7
KPCC President V S Koujalgi, who has been in the eye of a storm following charges of corruption made by a former BJP MP and the alleged existence of video tapes showing him accepting bribe for official favours during 1998-99, today resigned from his post "to uphold the dignity of the office" but maintained that the charges were false and baseless. The party high command, which on Monday said that there was no reason for him to resign as the law would take its course, today accepted his resignation.

OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

To admit mistakes is to grow

It's but human to err. Either in execution of work or in one's judgement of a certain project or a person. What should man learn from mistakes? A mistake draws attention to his vulnerability as a human; he need not feel ashamed, as he is not an automated entity to deliver perfection. Next, a mistake teaches him that overconfidence may result in the commission of errors.

A mistake also teaches that a thorough preparation minimises errors. Finally, a person should learn not to repeat the mistake. He should use the mistake as a learning tool and understand why and how things ended up as they did. A mistake is either accidental or deliberate. The former is innocent, can be corrected and should be forgiven. But the latter has an ulterior motive and is considered sinister. A mistake cannot be seen as a failure, although a cherished goal is not achieved.



Mistakes, after the initial setback, should not bring in lasting disappointment but build resilience and bring in new determination. During the recruitment process the armed forces prefer a person with failure on record, as it proves his resilience. It also goes that one should be bold to admit one's mistakes, be it in domestic issues or during the course of office work, as trying to hide it makes one a coward, and the essence of a mistake, which is to make one mentally stronger, is beaten.

Admission and apology lessen domestic friction. In the domain of management there is something known as escalation of commitment, wherein people go ahead with the project although mistakes have occurred and the project is no longer viable. The reason may be personal pride to admit mistakes or the overconfidence that somehow everything will turn out right with additional resources, or simply the fear of consequences on admission of mistakes.

It takes courage, and it is one's responsibility too, to reveal detected mistakes that have resulted in loopholes in a developing project to help decide upon it. Mistakes are part of your experiences, just like any other incidents, and can be considered positive as they occurred because you tried or did something. Thomas Edison, who invented the electric bulb, famously stated, "I have not failed 10,000 times – I've successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work."

Trai proposes voice-SMS-only mobile plans at lower prices

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a relief to feature phone users, telecom regulator Trai has proposed making it mandatory for telecom operators to offer mobile plans providing only voice calls and SMS services, priced lower than their current special tariff vouchers that also include data.

The proposal aligns with the regulator's efforts to give consumers (especially feature phone users) more affordable options without forcing them to pay for unused data services.

In a draft Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2026, Trai said it has mandated that every telecom operator shall offer at least one special tariff voucher exclusively for calling (voice) and SMS, but companies issued few plans with longer validity.

The regulator also found that while introducing these voice-and SMS-only packs, telecom operators initially fixed relatively higher prices, and these were not reduced in proportion to the removal of data benefits from bundled plans.

Trai said the outcome of the 2024 change was not adequate, and hence a new proposal.

Bengal electorate shrinks by 91L after SIR; TMC bastions hit hard

27 lakh 'under adjudication' voters struck off rolls

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

With about 27 lakh of over 60 lakh voters in the "under adjudication" category struck off the lists, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls has so far reduced the size of the electorate in poll-bound West Bengal by nearly 91 lakh, bringing it down from 7.66 crore to 6.77 crore.

Those excluded from the rolls in the 152 constituencies going to the polls on April 23 will not be able to vote. No further changes will be made in these constituencies, as the deadline for filing nominations for the first phase expired on Monday. However, some of the disenfranchised voters in the remaining 142 constituencies, where polling will be held on April 29, may still get a chance to vote if the appellate tribunals settle their cases before the nomination deadline on Thursday.

The Election Commission published the final supplementary voter list late on Monday night, followed early Tuesday by data on deletions after adjudication.

By February 28, around 63.66 lakh names (8.3% of the electorate) had been deleted. Over 60.06 lakh voters were placed in the "under adjudication" category, with their eligibility under scrutiny by judicial officers and monitored by the Calcutta High Court, as directed by the Supreme Court.

According to EC data, 27.16 lakh of those under adjudication were struck off the rolls, while 32.68 lakh were included in the electoral rolls.

People, whose names were deleted from voters' lists in the SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal, queue up to present their cases before judicial officers at Krishnanagar. PTI

The disenfranchised—many still unaware of the procedure for lodging appeals—waited for hours in long queues at district and sub-divisional headquarters, even as the process was not streamlined across the state until Tuesday.

The North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts of the state saw the highest overall voter deletions so far—12.6 lakh from 83 lakh and 10.91 lakh from 85.94 lakh, respectively, since the SIR commenced in West Bengal in November 2025.

The ruling Trinamool Congress won 28 of the 33 constituencies in North 24 Parganas in the Assembly elections in 2021. The BJP won in five. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party won 30 of the 31 Assembly seats from South 24 Parganas, while the BJP drew a blank in the district.

Muslims account for 66% and 51% population in Murshidabad and Malda districts, respectively, according to the 2011 census. The two districts recorded the highest number of voter deletions among those placed in the "under adjudication" category.

Over 4.55 lakh "under adjudication" voters were struck off in Murshidabad, raising the overall deletion since the beginning of the revision to 7.48 lakh.

In Malda, overall deletions rose to 4.59 lakh, with 2.39 lakh "under adjudication" voters stripped of voting rights.

DISENFRANCHISED

- Muslim-majority districts Murshidabad and Malda hit hardest
- 7.48L deletions in Murshidabad, including 4.55L adjudicated voters
- 4.59L deletions in Malda, 2.39L adjudicated voters off rolls
- North & South 24 Parganas record highest deletions

Mamata says SIR targeted particular communities

KOLKATA, DHNS

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that some particular communities had been targeted while disenfranchising voters during the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in the state.

"Why are you discriminating? You are specifically targeting the Matuas, the Rajbanshis and the minorities and stripping them of their voting rights. Do you think that people do not understand this?" Mamata said while addressing rallies in Chakdaha and Bongaon.

Mamata alleged that the Election Commission deleted voters from the electoral rolls, like "picking and removing lice from hair", particularly in Murshidabad, Malda, North Dinajpur and other districts with significant population of Muslims.

The Muslims accounted for over 50% of the electorate in at least 45 of the 294 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal. The community swayed the poll outcomes in about 45 other constituencies across the state.

The Hindu Matuas can influence the election results in nearly 45 other constituencies. A large number of Muslims and Hindu Matuas were struck off the electoral rolls since the beginning of the revision exercise in November 2025.

The Trinamool Congress has been accusing the EC of conducting the revision in West Bengal to ensure an electoral advantage for BJP in the Assembly elections.

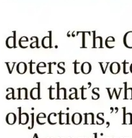
To this allegation, BJP's Suvendhu Adhikari said a significant number of voters deleted from the rolls were dead. "The CM wants dead voters to vote for her party, and that's why she is raising objections," he added.

According to senior TMC leaders Chandrima Bhattacharya and Kunal Ghosh, a BJP leader close to Adhikari was seen accompanying state CEO Manoj Agarwala during his recent visit to Nandigram in Purba Medinipur.

Adhikari said the electoral rolls was intended to strike off the names of illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

"This is an old tactic of Mamata Banerjee to pave the way for a law-and-order disturbance and anarchy in run-up to the polls," he said.

MAMATA BANERJEE
West Bengal Chief Minister



"Why are you discriminating? You are specifically targeting the Matuas, the Rajbanshis and the minorities and stripping them of their voting rights. Do you think that people do not understand this?

SUVENDU ADHIKARI
BJP leader

"This is an old tactic of Mamata Banerjee to pave the way for a law-and-order disturbance and anarchy in the run-up to the polls. She is trying to confuse people by equating the SIR with the NRC. People will resist and will not allow her to succeed in this endeavour.

Assam cops search Khera's house after passport charge against Sarma's wife

Bully using state machinery to silence Oppn, says Cong

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Assam Police on Tuesday searched the residence of Congress leader Pawan Khera here to arrest him after registering a case against him following Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that he used fake documents to level allegations against him and his wife. But he was not found.

The Congress described the move as a "bully using state machinery to muzzle and silence the voice of the Opposition" and also something that proves that the Assam CM is "disturbed, desperate, and rattled".

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said they were not scared of an FIR, while Sarma claimed Khera has "fled" to Hyderabad, which is governed by the Congress.

An Assam Police team leaves the Delhi residence of Congress leader Pawan Khera on Tuesday. PTI

Assam Police personnel were accompanied by their Delhi counterparts, who cordoned off the area near the residence of Khera, Congress Media and Publicity Department chairman, in Nizamuddin. He was not at his residence when the police arrived and is said to have been out of town while he was in Assam on Monday.

"A case has been registered in Guwahati. We wanted Khera in connection with the case. We came for him, but he was not found, and his house was searched. We found some incriminating material, which cannot be disclosed at this stage," Assam Crime Branch ACP Debojit Nath told reporters.

Khera's whereabouts are currently unknown, but he will be traced, Nath said.

A case was registered against Khera, who held a press conference on Sunday, after Sarma refuted his allegations that his wife Riniki possesses three passports from three different countries and that he hid details of his businesses in the UAE and the United States, claiming that the documents publicised by the Congress leader were fake.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh posted on 'X', "The deployment of a full army of police officials to arrest my colleague Pawan Khera for asking basic questions in the public interest proves that the Assam CM is disturbed, desperate, and rattled."

"This is not due process but instead a witch hunt, a bully using state machinery to muzzle and silence the voice of the Opposition that is exposing his many black deeds. Those who intimidate are the ones who are afraid and have much to hide. It also proves that the CM is facing imminent defeat," he said.

While Sarma claimed he did not know why Assam Police went to Delhi, Kharge said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita, who belongs to Assam, should clear the air on the passports allegedly held by Sarma's wife.

BJP demands public apology from Kharge over 'illiterate' remark

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Tuesday demanded a public apology from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for calling people of Gujarat "illiterate" at a rally in Kerala on April 5.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, senior party leader and MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said the remarks showed the "height of shamelessness and depravity", and said Kharge did not deserve to head a national party.

Prasad urged Rahul Gandhi to distance himself from the statement.

Prasad took strong exception to a separate remark by Kharge in Assam where the latter described BJP and the RSS as "poisonous snakes" that must be crushed.

Cong hits out at Sarma for 'madman' jibe at Kharge

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's "old man" and "madman" jibes at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday attracted widespread condemnation from party leaders, who said it was "disgraceful beyond any limit" and revealed the BJP's "anti-Dalit" mindset.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the "use of vulgar and derogatory language" by Sarma against Kharge was "entirely condemnable, shameful, and unacceptable" and asked a "direct question" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi whether he supported Sarma's use of language.

He said Modi's silence is "not helplessness" but "consent" and added that if the PM sees an attack on the dignity of crores of Dalits in the country and does not speak up, he is not only "shirking his responsibility but is also a party to that insult".

Sarma had targeted Kharge after the Congress president batted for the party's Media and Publicity Department head Pawan Khera, who levelled allegations against the BJP CM and his wife. Sarma said, "Being old, Kharge speaks like a madman...Who the hell is Kharge?" he told reporters while responding to Kharge's remarks.

EC may roll out SIR in remaining 22 states, UTs after polls

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission may roll out the third and final phase of special intensive revision of voters' list in the remaining 22 states and Union territories, including Delhi, after the polls to five assemblies this month, officials said.

Assembly elections are taking place in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal this month and counting will take place on May 4.

Officials said special intensive revision (SIR) could be rolled out after the polls conclude on April 29. Another possibility is to begin the massive exercise after the declaration of results.

So far, special intensive revision has been carried out in 10 states and three Union territories. A 'special revision' of electoral rolls was carried out in Assam.

Except for Uttar Pradesh, final voters' lists have been published where SIR was carried out.

60 cr voters covered

As many as 60 crore of the nearly 99 crore voters have been covered in these voters' list clean-up exercises.

The remaining nearly 39 crore electors will be covered in the proposed exercise in 17 states and five Union territories.

On February 19, the poll authority had asked 22 states and Union territories, including Delhi, to complete preparatory work related to SIR at the earliest as the exercise is "expected to start from April".

Once the exercise is completed, all states and Union Territories will be covered.

WEST ASIA CRISIS

Stay where you are for next 48 hrs: India's advisory to its citizens in Iran

NEW DELHI, PTI: As the West Asia crisis reaches a critical flashpoint following Washington's ultimatum to Tehran, India on Tuesday advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours.

In an urgent advisory, the Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors and strictly avoid military installations, power infrastructure and the upper floors of multi-story buildings.

US President Donald Trump warned that a "whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 5:30 am Indian time, Wednesday, to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper floors of multi-storey buildings, remaining indoors and coordinating any highway movement strictly with the embassy," the mission said.

"Those in embassy-hired hotels should stay put indoors while maintaining regular contact with on-site embassy teams. All are requested to monitor official updates closely," it said.

The embassy said its emergency numbers remain operational.

According to official data, around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began following strikes on Iranian targets by Israel and the US on February 28. Nearly 1,800 Indians have returned to India so far.

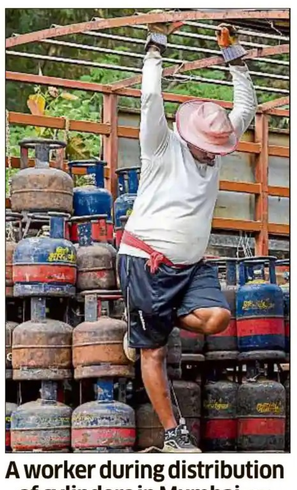
Double daily supply of 5-kg cylinders to migrants, states told

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has directed all states and Union Territories to double the daily supply of 5-kg Free Trade LPG (FTL) cylinders meant for migrant labourers.

In a letter to the states, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry Secretary, Neeraj Mittal, said the additional cylinders would be distributed exclusively to migrant labourers with the help of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

The ministry's move comes after complaints of a large number of migrant workers leaving cities for their native villages due to the non-availability of 5-kg LPG cylinders.



A worker during distribution of cylinders in Mumbai. PTI

Labour crunch

Industries that rely on migrant labour are also facing a sudden labour crunch as many workers have returned to their villages.

Mittal said state governments and their Food and Civil Supplies Departments would supervise the distribution process.

Earlier, Mittal held a meeting with state officials, during which the Centre stressed the need to maintain adequate LPG supply across the country.

The Secretary had also advised states to consider targeted distribution of 5-kg FTL cylinders based on local needs, in coordination with OMCs.

According to the ministry, around 6.75 lakh 5-kg cylinders have been sold across the country since March 23, indicating stable and improving supply.

'No dryout'

At an inter-ministerial briefing on developments in the Middle East, Petroleum Ministry Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma said on Tuesday no "dryout" was reported at petrol pumps or LPG distributorships anywhere in the country.

Oil Marketing Companies had conducted 1,300 awareness camps over the last four days, during which 10,005 5-kg cylinders were sold.

Online LPG bookings have risen to about 97% across the industry, while Delivery Authentication Code-based deliveries have climbed to around 90% to curb diversion of cylinders.

Domestic LPG supplies to households have remained normal, with more than 18 crore cylinders delivered since March 1, she said.

Indian airlines cancelled over 10K flights since war began

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian carriers have cancelled over 10,000 flights since the onset of the West Asia conflict, as escalating tensions and airspace restrictions disrupted international operations, a senior government official said.

The widespread closures of key transit corridors forced airlines to suspend or reroute services, particularly on long-haul routes to Europe and North America.

WAR SHOCKS

"On an average, Indian carriers used to fly about 300 to 350 flights daily to the Middle East (both ways put together). Today that number has come down to 80-90. That takes the total (flights cancelled by Indian carriers) since the beginning of the situation, that is from February 28, to over 10,000," Asangba Chuba Ao, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, said at a news briefing on West Asia developments.

The conflict, which started with the US and Israel attacking Iran, has led to airspace closure or severe restrictions in several countries across West Asia, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE.

This, he said, has led to "unprecedented disruption in global aviation networks and international connectivity".

"Flights, especially to Europe and North America by Indian carriers, have to take longer routes, which has increased travel time and associated cost," he said.

To deal with the situation, the DGCA recently granted a temporary relaxation in Flight Duty Time Limitations for pilots operating long-haul flights, primarily to address operational disruptions and pilot shortages.

The relaxation, which is valid till April 30, is to help prevent acute crew shortages, he said, adding that the deadline will be reviewed closure to its expiry.

Move to remove CEC Kumar lacks proof: Presiding officers

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Opposition allegations seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar "lack proof necessary to constitute misbehaviour" and "do not prima facie meet the high constitutional bar" for removal proceedings, Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said while rejecting the notices.

The orders issued on Monday, refusing to admit the notices signed by 63 MPs in the Rajya Sabha and 130 MPs in the Lok Sabha, stated that such a motion can be admitted only where there exists "credible material" disclosing a prima facie case. Accepting such notices "based on administrative disagreements and political perceptions" would jeopardise the independence the Constitution aims to safeguard.

The Opposition had sought Kumar's removal, citing seven charges, including a flawed appointment, partisan conduct, obstruction of investigations into electoral fraud, objections related to Bihar SIR and the subsequent nationwide exercise, contempt of Supreme Court directions, and failure to maintain independence and constitutional fidelity.

"...I find that the allegations contained therein lack proof necessary to constitute misbehaviour establishing a prima facie case for the removal of the CEC. Some charges involve matters already decided or currently under judicial review. While these allegations are relevant for political debate, they do not prima facie meet the high constitutional bar for removal proceedings," the orders said.

The orders noted that the notice met the numerical requirement of support from at least 50 Rajya Sabha MPs, even after discarding "certain incongruities in the signatures of some signatory members" among the 63 who had signed.

Referring to the argument that Kumar's appointment was flawed as the law is under challenge, the orders stated that this does not amount to any act of misbehaviour.

The orders rejected the charge that the EC's independence was impacted by Kumar's appointment, stating that it "appears to be couched in broad, generalised, and inferential terms, lacking specificity and resting largely on the perception of a particular political formation".

Emphasising that Kumar has no individual role in the process of his appointment, the orders added that his previous stint in the MHA under Amit Shah "cannot be construed as indicative of bias".

Raison d'être

The orders by the RS chairman and LS speaker said such a motion can be admitted only where there exists 'credible material' disclosing a prima facie case

The orders rejected the charge that ECI's independence was impacted by Kumar's appointment

CEC Gyanesh Kumar

The TMC and BJP are two sides of the same coin, and a new coin is needed in West Bengal. Need to do away with the old coin with TMC and BJP on the two sides
DH
DECCAN HERALD
Political Theatre
A 'parivartan' (change) is inevitable in West Bengal. Once the BJP comes to power in the state, all infiltrators will be sent back to their countries

Poll vault

Power play
Tamil Nadu Handlooms Minister R Gandhi proved that power can prevail over everything, even family. Chief Minister MK Stalin had declared Gandhi's son, Vinod Gandhi, as the DMK candidate from Ranipet. However, the minister kept delaying the filing of his son's nomination papers and stood his ground, saying he would not allow anyone other than himself to contest from the seat. Eventually, the party relented, asked his son to withdraw, and allotted the seat to Gandhi.

E T B SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Saree politics
As Mamata Banerjee was leaving her home in Kalighat, Kolkata, for Shantipur, the handloom capital of West Bengal, she received a call from her sister-in-law, Lata Banerjee, mother of TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. The two did not discuss the party's prospects in the Assembly elections. Instead, Lata asked the CM to bring her two sarees from Shantipur. "Well, she is a daughter-in-law of our household and has never asked for any ornament or other pricey gift. So, ahead of Poila Baisakh (Bengali New Year), she can of course expect a saree or two," Mamata said at a rally held in support of the TMC's candidate in Shantipur. As the largely female audience cheered, Mamata added that her own plain white cotton saree, with a blue motif along the border, was also woven by Shantipur's artisans, though designed by her.

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK, KOLKATA

Meet the leader

Chandy Oommen
Congress
Puthuppally

Congress MLA Chandy Oommen, son of former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy, has been campaigning in his Puthuppally constituency in Kottayam largely on a bicycle.

Confident that his work as an MLA has already made him familiar to the people, Chandy avoided banners and posters, thereby cutting down campaign expenses.

On April 7, World Health Day, he appeared in black attire to highlight lapses in the state's public health sector during the 10 years of LDF rule.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who came to Puthuppally for the election campaign, also joined Chandy Oommen on a bicycle ride to support his green initiative.

Forty-year-old Chandy entered electoral politics after the death of his father, Oommen Chandy, in 2023. In the subsequent by-election, he secured a thumping victory with a margin of 37,719 votes. Oommen Chandy, a popular mass leader, had represented Puthuppally for 53 years from 1970 until his death. Now his son is attempting to follow in his father's footsteps by building a similar mass connect.

A lawyer by profession, Chandy practised in the Supreme Court before entering electoral politics. He had been actively involved in politics since his student days and held various positions, including chairman of the national outreach cell of the Youth Congress.

Trivia
In the 1957 Assembly polls in Assam, the Election Commission faced a peculiar problem in Mokokchung, which later became part of the new state of Nagaland. The nomination papers of only one candidate were found valid. But the candidate developed cold feet and withdrew, leaving the seat unfilled. The EC had to call for another election. This time too, nominations were filed, but in the end only one candidate remained in the fray. Thankfully, he did not back out again.

Paravur stands firmly with Satheesan

Supporters already see him as the UDF's chief ministerial candidate

FROM THE GROUND

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
PARAVUR (KOCHI), DHNS

Congress candidate and Kerala Assembly LoP, VD Satheesan, contesting from Paravur constituency being offered a bunch of green bananas during an election campaign in Kochi. PTI

People of the coastal town of Paravur near Kochi have only two concerns as Kerala Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan seeks his sixth consecutive mandate in the upcoming Assembly elections. They are: Will he become the next chief minister, and can we increase his victory margin to over 30,000?

Irrespective of age, the people of Paravur are quite excited in this election, which was quite evident from the large turnout at all points along Satheesan's campaign trail, that too under the scorching sun in the constituency that lies on the banks of the Periyar river and close to the Arabian Sea.

An elderly couple waiting at their gate to greet Satheesan at Puthenvelikara at high noon could not hold their excitement. "He is our son. He will attain great heights," the elderly woman told *DH*.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)'s local leaders and workers campaigning for Satheesan seem to be quite cautious in avoiding a campaign that projects him as the next CM. Satheesan himself is against any discussion on the CM candidate ahead of the polls.

However, the voters can't hold their emotions. "Who else other than Satheesan should become the CM? He has been leading the UDF over the last five years and won all elections," said Kurumbathuruthu-native Ponnan.

A group of youths having tea at Puthenvelikara bazar, who were reticent about speaking to the media about the elections, responded swiftly to questions on whether there are any adverse factors for Satheesan here. "It should be only Satheesan here. He is everything for us," they said.

With CPI fielding E T Taison Master, the current MLA of Kaipamangalam in the adjacent Thrissur district, against Satheesan this time, a local sentiment in the latter's favour was also evident in Paravur.

"Why should we vote for any outsider while we have Satheesan, who sees no politics in extending his services as an MLA?" asked a voter who was waiting at Turuthoorpokkam for Satheesan's arrival.

Despite holding the responsibility of the leader of the Opposition, Satheesan remains closely connected to the constituency by making himself available whenever possible.

That has paid off: His victory margin increased in all elections — from around 7,400 in 2001 to 21,301 in 2021.

INTERNAL BATTLE

- CPM keeping fingers crossed as rebel leaders contesting with UDF support in Taliparambu and Payyannur
- The party has won all elections in Taliparambu except in 1970, whereas it never tasted defeat in Payyannur
- Despite being party strongholds for long, experts think chances of cracks in the party vote bank is quite high this time

Will resentment in CPM citadels reflect on the ballot?

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
KANNUR, DHNS

The CPM leadership in its citadel Kannur in Kerala is keeping fingers crossed ahead of the Assembly elections as two prominent local hardcore party leaders are contesting as rebels with the backing of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

Taliparambu and Payyannur are witnessing the rebel threats. The CPM won all elections in Taliparambu except in 1970, whereas it never tasted defeat in Payyannur.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

T K Govindan is contesting against CPM state secretary M V Govindan's wife P K Shyamala in Taliparambu.

The seat is now held by M V Govindan, and the decision to give it to his wife — also a local-level CPM leader — triggered unrest in the party.

Subsequently T K Govindan levelled a barrage of allegations against the party secretary as well as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's support for him.

In Payyanur, dissident leader V Kunhikrishnan is contesting against sitting MLA T I Madhusoodanan. Kunhikrishnan was expelled from the party after he raised allegations of misappropriation of a martyr's fund against Madhusoodanan and accused the party leadership of inaction against him.

Taliparambu and Payyannur being CPM citadels, voices of dissent against the party leadership hardly come out. Its grassroots-level workers have a tradition of firmly standing with it in times of crisis.

However, local sources close to the party were not ruling out the possibility of resentment among the ordinary workers of the party towards the leadership being reflected on the ballots.

"Both Govindan and Kunhikrishnan are hardcore party workers with decades of loyalty towards the party. The issues they raised were not merely allegations. Hence, the chances of cracks in the CPM's vote banks in its strongholds are quite high this time. Those who are unable to speak out against the party could convey their resentment through the ballots," said a local political activist who chose to remain anonymous.

Meanwhile, there are criticisms against the Congress' strategy as well, especially in Taliparambu.

Congress candidate Abdul Rasheed recorded a nearly 8% increase in UDF votes in the 2021 elections, and CPM's victory margin was reduced to 22,689 from 40,617.

Hence, the Congress could have fielded its own candidate this time and taken advantage of the division in CPM votes by the rebel candidate, sources pointed out.

The Congress' decision to back T K Govindan had even led to resentment within the party.

Campaign ends, 722 candidates in fray

BJP, Cong exude confidence about getting majority mark

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

BJP supporters during a rally in Guwahati. PTI

The campaigning for the April 9 Assembly elections in Assam ended on Tuesday amid both the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress exuding confidence about comfortably getting the majority mark.

The Election Commission, in a statement, said that the silence period would come into effect from 5 pm on Tuesday, during which no poll-related campaigns would be allowed as per provision under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Public meetings, processions and display of election-related content through electronic or social media would also not be permitted.

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

The panel appealed to the political parties, candidates and media organisations to strictly adhere to the EC norms, violation of which would attract penal action.

A total of 722 candidates are contesting for the 126 Assembly seats, while 2.50 crore voters will exercise their voting rights in 31,490 polling stations.

The main battle is likely to be between the BJP and its allies, Asom Gana Parishad and Bodoland People's Front, and the Congress-led Opposition alliance of six parties. Eyes will also be on Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF, which is contesting the polls on its own after a long time.

Addressing a campaign rally, Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday morning said the saffron party and its allies would comfortably get the majority for the third straight term. The NDA is eyeing victory with more than 100 seats.

Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, who addressed a press conference in Guwahati, said a survey suggested that the party could get a majority on its own while the Opposition alliance could win 70 to 72 seats.

The final day of campaigning also saw a war of words between Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi over the latter's allegation about the CM and his wife owning assets in foreign soil.

BJP and LDF supporters gather on the final day of campaigning for the Kerala Assembly elections, at Peroorkada, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Tuesday. PTI

After high-voltage campaign, all eyes on polarisation impact

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the high-voltage public campaign for the Kerala elections drew to a close on Tuesday, the curious question doing the rounds is how the allegations and counter-allegations among the three fronts will influence voters.

The campaign largely saw the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) accusing each other of having a nexus with the BJP, while the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) charged both the LDF and UDF with ties to outfits like the SDPI and Jamaat-e-Islami. At the same time, both the BJP and CPM accused the Congress of succumbing to the Indian Union Muslim League. All these exchanges were clear attempts at polarisation of votes.

While the BJP has almost lost hope of making inroads into minority vote banks, the voting patterns of majority communities will be a crucial factor.

Though there was a drift of Hindu-Ezhava votes towards the BJP in the previous elections, political analysts point out that the UDF is now better positioned to tap those votes, as anti-incumbency against the LDF government could work in its favour.

After 2024 Lok Sabha polls setback, the CPM leadership openly criticised the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)-linked political party Bharath Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS), a key coalition partner in the NDA, accusing it of becoming a recruitment agency for the BJP, as Ezhava votes continued to drift towards the saffron party. Analysts say the scenario is no longer relevant. "Even though the BDJS managed to influence the Ezhava vote bank in favour of the BJP in previous elections, that influence is now almost vanishing, as the BJP has failed to make much impact here," said political observer Joseph C Mathew.

Chances for the BJP-NDA remain bleak, as it has distanced itself from the Muslim community (nearly 27% of the state's population) by not fielding any candidates from the community. Efforts to woo Christian voters also faltered, with moves to amend the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act prompting church leaders to oppose the BJP during the campaign.

The UDF, meanwhile, appears better placed to gain minority votes, benefiting both from anti-incumbency against the LDF and its ability to counter the BJP at the national level.

Senior journalist Ramesh Babu notes that first-time voters, who often play decisive roles in elections, are likely to cast their ballots based on the quality of candidates and that they will not be swayed by attempts at vote polarisation.

Although anti-incumbency against the decade-long LDF rule was strongly reflected in the recent local body polls, the Pinarayi Vijayan government appears to have succeeded in diminishing that sentiment to some extent.

IDENTITY WARS

BJP plays 'miya threat' card in 'secular' Sivasagar

SUMIR KARMAKAR
SIVASAGAR, DHNS

"Miya khedok, Asom bochaok, Sivasagar bochaok" (Chase out the miyas to save Assam, save Sivasagar) — billboards with slogans like these greet travellers turning off NH-37 at Bhatiapara towards Sivasagar, a district in Upper Assam often described as the nerve centre of "secular and inclusive" Assamese identity.

Many Bengali-speaking Muslim migrant workers, referred to by the BJP as 'miyas', were driven out of Sivasagar and neighbouring districts by pro-BJP organisations after the Himanta Biswa Sarma government intensified eviction drives targeting the community last year. A door-to-door campaign warning of a perceived identity threat posed by

Akhil Gogoi

Bengali-speaking Muslims to indigenous communities was also carried out, particularly by the saffron party and its affiliates.

"Let them try, but the BJP can't ever win in Sivasagar," said Nipon Jyoti Baruah, a vendor selling handicraft items outside Rang Ghar, the 18th-century Ahom-era amphitheatre.

"We are against the Bangladeshis. But the BJP has turned the elections into a Hindu-Muslim fight. That ideology is not acceptable here, because Muslims and Hindus have lived as one Assamese community since the Ahom era," said Afrida Begum, an Assamese Muslim schoolteacher who also lives near Rang Ghar.

Monuments like Rang Ghar dot Sivasagar and the neighbouring Charaideo district, once the seat of administration during the Ahom dynasty, which ruled Assam for nearly 600 years before the British annexed it in 1826.

"Even during the Ahom era, communal politics was not welcomed," added Begum, who teaches Assamese.

Sivasagar has never elected a BJP candidate since Independence, always preferring an Ahom representative from either the Congress or the Left. Pranab Gogoi of the Congress was elected four times between 2001 and 2016, before Akhil Gogoi, president of Raijor Dal — an anti-BJP party — won in 2021.

Akhil contested the 2021 elections from jail, after being arrested by the BJP-led government on charges of being a Maoist, following violent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2020.

Triangular contest
Akhil, now 50, is seeking a second consecutive term, while the BJP has fielded Kushal Dowari, a former Ulfa insurgent leader turned politician. Pradip Hazarika, a veteran leader of BJP's ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), is the other prominent contender.

During the campaign, Akhil, who recently joined the Congress-led Opposition alliance, targeted Dowari by highlighting the alleged murder cases registered against him during his insurgent years. The BJP countered by pointing out that Akhil himself faces more serious cases linked to the agitations he led against both Congress and BJP governments.

Many in Sivasagar vouch for Hazarika but say he is unlikely to secure votes as the AGP is an ally of the BJP.

"Voting for Hazarika means welcoming the BJP indirectly," a government employee living near Talatal Ghar, another Ahom-era monument, told *DH*.

BJP leaders, however, believe that voters in Sivasagar, particularly the youth, will break tradition and support the party, citing its efforts to "protect Assam's identity from the threat of miyas".

In absence of Vijay, TVK nominees use actor's cutout

CHENNAI, DHNS: Every other TVK candidate wants their leader and actor Vijay to campaign for them personally. However, with Vijay only making cameo appearances, his party blames the Tamil Nadu police for imposing dozens of conditions for his campaign, the Tiruverumbur candidate in Tiruchirapalli has found a novel way to "get Vijay to campaign for him."

Navalpattu Viji, who is challenging School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, now campaigns with a life-size cutout of Vijay with folded hands.

Not just Viji, but TVK candidates from Tiruchirapalli district had hoped that they would be introduced by Vijay during the campaign meeting in the city on April 2. However, Vijay appeared solo atop his campaign van and spoke to people for about 15 minutes.

They are now left with no option but to somehow feature Vijay in their campaign. Viji is seen seeking votes in the name of Vijay by pointing to the cutout.

A video of Viji seeking votes with the cutout has gone viral on social media, with many "sympathising" with TVK candidates.

CCTV issues in police stations to be sorted in 2 weeks, Centre assures SC

Court tells govt to issue directive to all states to follow Kerala pattern

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government on Tuesday assured the Supreme Court that all issues concerning the installation of CCTVs in police stations across the country would be sorted out within two weeks.

Attorney General R Venkataramani told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that he was taking stock of the issue and a lot of things were happening.

The Union home secretary also appeared in court in pursuance of the apex court's Monday order asking him to remain present before it on Tuesday.

The court was hearing a batch of pleas, including a suo motu case over the lack of functional CCTVs in police stations.

"I am taking stock of the issues," Venkataramani said.

The bench said that the top court had earlier asked the amicus curiae in the matter to hold meetings with all the states and Union Territories (UTs), and the Union of India was represented by an under secretary in the deliberations. "Does it look nice?" the bench asked.

Kerala pattern

The top law officer said a lot of things are happening in the matter, and he would have a series of meetings with the amicus and home secretary. The bench said during the hearing on Monday, it was pointed out that Kerala has come out with a very nice software, and they have implemented it fully.

"So, we were requesting the additional solicitor general (who appeared for the Centre on Monday), why can't you follow it uniformly for all the states. Instead of every state creating its own software and spending money and time, there is already a readily available software, which is in use," the bench said.

The court said that, according to the amicus curiae, Siddharth Dave, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan have already set up centralised dashboards. "You can issue guidelines to all the states requesting them or directing them to follow the same pattern as that of Kerala," the bench said.

Venkataramani said he would hold meetings with the amicus and the authorities.

The court listed the matter again on April 28.

It said the amicus may file a fresh status report by the next date of hearing, and the Centre may also file an affidavit, if any.

The apex court had in 2018 ordered the installation of CCTV cameras across police stations to check human rights abuses. In December 2020, the top court directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, ED and NIA.

Kerala farmer kills self, alleges harassment by CPI leaders

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A farmer was found hanging on the premises of an election committee office of the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) at Vaikom in Kerala's Kottayam district on Tuesday.

Causing embarrassment to the ruling front, a video of the deceased, Chelappan, 67, has surfaced in which he accuses CPI local leaders of harassing him over his agriculture-related business activities. Chellappan was found hanging in a temporary shed set up for the LDF's election committee office. His friends and relatives staged a protest, which was later joined by Congress and BJP leaders.

In the video message, reportedly posted recently on social media, he alleges that some local CPI leaders were trying to destroy his nursery and agricultural work. He also said his attempts to raise his grievances with Agriculture Minister P Prasad were blocked by CPI local leaders.

CPI local leaders denied the allegations and stated that a detailed probe was required, alleging that the Congress and BJP were trying to take advantage of the issue during the elections. Vaikom, a CPI stronghold, is witnessing a keen electoral contest, with former two-time CPI MLA K Ajith contesting as a BJP candidate.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

LeT module busted in Srinagar; 2 Pakistan ultras among 5 held

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In a major counter-terrorism breakthrough, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday busted an interstate module of the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba in Srinagar, arresting five individuals, including two Pakistani terrorists, officials said.

Those arrested, officials said, include Abdullah alias Abu Hureira, a key operative who had allegedly evaded security agencies for nearly 16 years, and another Pakistani terrorist identified as Usman alias Khubaib.

Three Srinagar residents—Mohammad Naqeeb Bhat, Adil Rashid Bhat, and Ghulam Mohammad Mir—have also been taken into custody for allegedly providing logistical support, including shelter and food, to the militants. Officials said the operation was launched following specific intelligence inputs and digital intercepts indicating the presence of a Lashkar-linked network operating beyond Jammu and Kashmir. The arrests are being seen as a significant lead in uncovering a wider terror ecosystem with interstate linkages.

Abdullah alias Abu Hureira

Usman alias Khubaib

Sources in the security establishment said coordinated raids were carried out at multiple locations across states as part of the crackdown, pointing to the existence of a deep-rooted network.

Police teams have also expanded operations outside the Union Territory, including in Punjab, with assistance from central agencies.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the module was involved in facilitating movement, logistics and possibly financial channels for foreign terrorists. Officials suspect that the network enabled operatives to operate beyond Jammu and Kashmir using forged identities and support structures built over time.

Unresolved division of assets between Telangana, Andhra comes to fore again

HYDERABAD, PTI: The unresolved division of State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) assets between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh following the state bifurcation in 2014 recently led to a standoff between the two states, though the situation has since stabilised.

The bone of contention was Bus Bhavan, the RTC headquarters here, where Block A was allotted to Andhra, while Block B was under the control of Telangana RTC.

Based on a government directive, the commercial taxes department of Telangana sought to occupy the vacant floors of Block A a few days ago, official sources said on Tuesday.

However, Andhra RTC officials protested because they were not consulted.

Although commercial taxes officials tried to take possession, they could not, and APSRTC officials locked and sealed the premises, sources said.

APSRTC officials informed the state government's higher-ups about the issue.

The Andhra government officials wrote to their counterparts in Telangana, urging them to put the matter on hold.

There was no formal reply from Telangana to the Andhra government's letter so far, the sources added.

The division of assets and liabilities between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh following the state's bifurcation in 2014 is still pending and is also being heard in courts.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I'M GOING TO DO SOME RETURNS... GOT ANYTHING?
YES! THESE HAPPY UNICORN CUFFLINKS!
OH, AND THIS MYSTERY KITCHEN GADGET AND THIS FLAMINGO FOUNTAIN
AND, OF COURSE, THIS BOBBY FLAY CHIA HEAD!
HOLD ON! THAT'S A KEEPER!!!
12-27

Hagar The Horrible

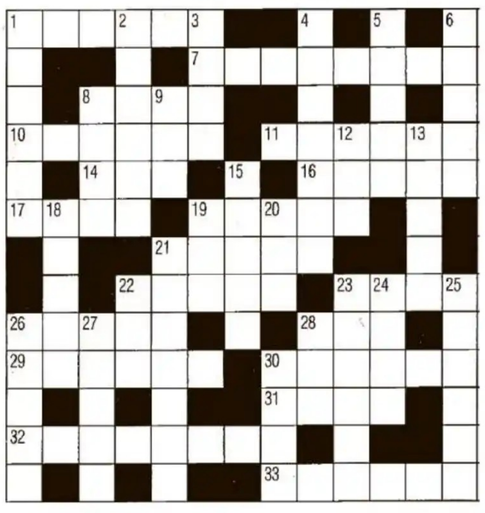
Beetle Bailey

GUARD DUTY WAS TOUGH. WE GOT SOAKED IN THE STORM LAST NIGHT
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DRY OUR UNIFORMS?
YOU'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT
GREG + MORT WALKER
12/15

Peanuts

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12390



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Provokes in a way that makes us sore (6)
7 Music provided by Charlie and the girls (8)
8 Sherry that goes with portion of fish and duck (4)
10 Vote for the half bottle that has everything (6)
11 He loves to hurt (6)
14 Always less than cheerful (3)
16 They're pretty worthless, not having been new for years (5)
17 Piratical lad at Land's End (4)
19 There's nothing possibly to deny about a respected senior (5)
21 One in a mount would be a valuable picture (5)
22 Royalty of whom people gas heartlessly? (5)
23 Jenny, a little like Robin (4)
26 Were they skinheads for years before getting wise? (5)
28 When her aim is spoilt, she's still a bit amiable (3)
29 Might one possibly parley with the ref? (6)
30 We accept the possible link with shellfish (6)
31 It's of marginal significance (4)
32 Subjected to repulsive treatment (8)
33 The way a Frenchman is unflappable (6)

DOWN
1 Brew of beer good for an animal (6)
2 Moved smoothly into a slide? (6)
3 Canny cost adjuster? (4)
4 Soldier has dog as protection? (7)
5 Drink with a girl and get firmly established (3,2)
6 Thea's in a mad rush! (5)
8 Departed in haste, baffled (4)
9 Neither number is right (3)
12 Mark joins him in the country (3)
13 Make runs with a cut? (5)
15 It's no good interrupting an SOS for music (5)
18 The one place that couldn't be better (5)
19 Where clothing's concerned, he won't take anything off (3)
20 Agreement in every essential (3)
21 Niggardly anguish about money (7)
22 Essential England cricketer? (3)
23 One of soccer's outsiders? (6)
24 Prepare a bed for a libertine (4)
25 Sort of match at which to hiss is unnecessary (6)
26 Sudden acceleration bringing a rush of blood? (5)
27 Frothy talk about a politician making umbrellas (5)
28 Located like a small figure between large ones (3)
30 We join a detective sergeant who is getting married (4)

ACROSS
1 Clans (6)
7 Increase in degree (8)
8 Long formal dress (4)
10 Very happy (6)
11 Just about (6)
14 Permit (3)
16 Foundation (5)
17 Roof slab (4)
19 Powerful businessman (5)
21 Rot (5)
22 Bathroom fitting (5)
23 Quarry (4)
26 Sham (5)
28 Drawn match (3)
29 Makes amends (6)
30 Serving dish (6)
31 Gemstone (4)
32 Diligence (8)
33 Brochette (6)

DOWN
1 Above average ability (6)
2 Baby's soft shoe (6)
3 Dispatch (4)
4 Chest-on-chest (7)
5 Nigerian city (5)
6 Defeats (5)
8 Impudence, informally (4)
9 Opposite of dry (3)
12 Bloke (3)
13 Edge along (5)
15 Shoe fasteners (5)
18 Bar of gold (5)
19 Sleeping place (3)
20 Long-tailed rodent (3)
21 Malady (7)
22 Bread roll (3)
23 Corsair (6)
24 Spool (4)
25 Over there (6)
26 Herb (5)
27 Dutch cheese (5)
28 Ram (3)
30 Playthings (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12389

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Faith 6, A-head 9, Re-quire 10, S-pr-ay 11, Cable 12, Fight 13, Sappers 15, Sea 17, Iris 18, B-roads 19, Imply 20, Go ho.-me 22, Blue 24, Ely 25, Ambient 26, W-edge 27, Cheer 28, Missy 29, Aspirin 30, Smoke 31, Diana.
DOWN: 2, A-pp-ear 3, Tramps 4, Hey 5, Tu-n-is 6, Archery 7, Heat 8, Al-lied 12, From-e 13, Singe 14, Pit-h-y 15, Sable 16, As-set 18, B-lame 19, Immerse 21, Old-ham 22, Bikini 23, Unison 25, A-g-a-in 26, Weak 28, Mid.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Marsh 6, Hoist 9, Tantrum 10, Hairy 11, Mimic 12, Beret 13, Blender 15, Les 17, Read 18, Punish 19, Scars 20, Wrench 22, Cite 24, Nor 25, Boarder 26, Power 27, Gavel 28, Dairy 29, Rarebit 30, Lemur 31, Pearl.
DOWN: 2, Arable 3, Strand 4, Hay 5, Steer 6, Humerus 7, Omit 8, Shines 12, Bench 13, Brown 14, Eager 15, Livid 16, Sheer 18, Prior 19, Scholar 21, Rotate 22, Create 23, Terror 25, Bevel 26, Peru 28, Dip.

◆SU-DO-KU-6874◆

	6			3	7	4		
						8	9	
	7			2				1
	1		8					
6			1	9	3			8
					6		5	
2				8			1	
	4	3						
		1	6	4			3	

medium

2	8	5	9	7	4	6	3	1
1	4	6	2	3	5	9	8	7
7	3	9	6	1	8	5	2	4
8	6	7	5	2	1	4	9	3
3	2	4	8	9	6	1	7	5
5	9	1	3	4	7	8	6	2
9	5	3	1	8	2	7	4	6
4	1	2	7	6	9	3	5	8
6	7	8	4	5	3	2	1	9

SOLUTION TO 6873

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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R1	C3	L1	I1	A1	Y4	C3	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	E1	L1	B3	G2	N1	N1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
E1	U1	G2	H4	N1	N1	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
D2	A1	E1	L1	R1	N1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3	A1	R1	B3	O1	N1		RACK 1 =	10
F4	O1	R1	B3	O1	D2	E1	RACK 2 =	63
T1	E1	N1	F4	O1	L1	D2	RACK 3 =	83
H4	O1	M3	I1	N1	Y4		RACK 4 =	18

PAR SCORE 115-125 JUDD'S TOTAL 174

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAISA

UTTSN

NERDEG

LERIOO

I really think between the cane and new shoes, I can get around.
You've put this off long enough. No more excuses- you need a replacement.
9/26
SHE DISAGREED WITH THE DOCTOR'S TREATMENT PLAN FOR HER KNEES, BUT SHE HAD NO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SALAD GROSS QUIVER BATTEN
Answer: After receiving a patent for the rubber heel, Humphrey O'Sullivan made — GREAT STRIDES

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HITORI-3328

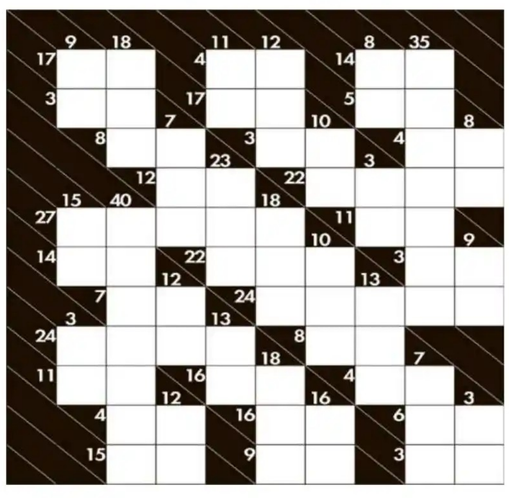
6	6	4	4	2	1	2	5
2	8	2	1	4	5	6	3
4	4	2	3	1	4	7	6
6	1	1	8	5	7	2	2
5	6	6	2	7	2	4	1
3	5	1	2	8	2	4	4
8	4	6	5	3	4	1	7
7	4	3	4	2	8	2	1

SOLUTION TO 3327

■	1	3	4	■	8	■	7
1	■	5	■	7	6	2	4
6	2	8	3	■	7	■	5
3	■	7	■	6	2	1	■
8	6	■	7	3	4	■	2
■	8	2	■	4	■	7	3
2	7	■	1	8	3	6	■
■	3	6	5	2	■	4	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3328



SOLUTION TO 3327

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3879

■	3		9			1		■
	■			5			3	
		9		6		■		
3	8		■	4	■			7
1				■				
7			■		■	2	9	8
		■				■		3
	■	■		8	1	5	7	
■	2							■

SOLUTION TO 3878

5	9	4	7	8	3	2	1	6
1	8	6	2	5	9	4	7	3
3	7	2	4	1	6	9	8	5
4	3	7	6	9	5	8	2	1
6	1	9	8	3	2	5	4	7
8	2	5	1	4	7	3	6	9
9	6	8	3	7	4	1	5	2
7	4	3	5	2	1	6	9	8
2	5	1	9	6	8	7	3	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Tension in West Asia: Millions volunteer to defend nation, says Masoud Pezeshkian

Iran urges human chains to protect power plants

Airstrikes hit Tehran amid fears of escalation over Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI, AP/PTI

Airstrikes pounded Tehran on Tuesday as Iranian officials urged citizens, particularly young people, to form human chains to protect power plants, hours before the expiry of US President Donald Trump's latest deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face major strikes on its infrastructure.

Trump, who has extended previous deadlines, indicated that the 8 pm Washington deadline would be final. Tensions have escalated sharply, leaving Iranians on edge. He warned that the US could destroy all of Iran's power plants and bridges if Tehran does not allow traffic to fully resume through the strait, a key global oil route.

Iran's president said 14 million people, including himself, had volunteered to fight. President Masoud Pezeshkian said on X that millions had responded to calls to volunteer. "I, too, have been, am, and will remain ready to give my life for Iran," he wrote.

Although Iran cannot match the military capabilities of the US and Israel, its control over the strait has disrupted global markets.

Meanwhile, strikes across Iran, including in residential areas of Tehran, have killed nearly three dozen people. Iran has also launched attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia, prompting the temporary closure of a major bridge.

Reinforcing his deadline, Trump warned that "the entire country can be taken out in one night".

In response, Iranian authorities called on "young people, athletes, artists, students and professors" to form human chains around power plants.

"These power plants are national assets," said Alireza Rahimi, identified by state television as secretary of the Supreme Council of Youth and Adolescents.

Not the first time

Iran has previously organised such human chains around nuclear facilities during periods of heightened tensions with Western countries.

A Revolutionary Guard general also urged parents to send their children to man checkpoints, which have repeatedly been targeted in airstrikes.

Iranians rally during a memorial, 40 days after a deadly strike on an elementary school in the southern city of Minab on the first day of the war that killed at least 165 people, most of them schoolchildren, in Tehran on Tuesday. AFP

Russia, China veto UN move on Hormuz

UNITED NATIONS, AFP

Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a text already diluted from the green light Gulf states had sought to use force to protect the key shipping lane.

The draft resolution, prepared by Bahrain and supported by the US, received 11 votes in favour, two against and two abstentions. Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said Gulf states "regret" the rejection of the measure. Iran has imposed an effective blockade on the critical waterway since the US and Israel launched the war on February 28, sending ripple effects throughout the global economy.

The vote came hours before US President Donald Trump's dire ultimatum expired for Tehran to open the strait, which normally carries a fifth of the world's oil, or "a whole civilisation will die" in Iran.

"Today's result does not restrict the United States to continue to act in its own self-defence and in the collective defence of our allies and partners," US ambassador Mike Waltz said after the Security Council vote.

Al Zayani, speaking on behalf of the oil-exporting Gulf countries, said the failure to pass the resolution "sends the wrong signal to the world".

"This signals that the threat to international waterways can pass without any decisive action by the international organisation responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security," he said.

Bahrain launched negotiations two weeks ago on a draft that would have given a clear UN mandate to any state wishing to use force to unblock the strait.

Iran-backed militia releases US journalist

BAGHDAD, AP/PTI: American journalist Shelly Kittleson, who was kidnapped from a Baghdad streetcorner last week, has been released, an Iraqi official with direct knowledge of the situation said on Tuesday.

Kittleson was freed in the afternoon, said the official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to comment publicly. He did not share her current whereabouts but said that prior to her release, she had been held in Baghdad.

The powerful Iran-backed Iraqi militia Kataib Hezbollah said in a statement earlier in the day that it had decided to free Kittleson, who was abducted on March 31.

Building housing Israeli Consulate attacked in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, AP/PTI: Three assailants opened fire at police outside a building housing the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul on Tuesday, triggering a gunfight that left one attacker dead, Turkish officials said. The two other assailants were wounded and captured.

Two police officers sustained minor injuries in the exchange, Istanbul Governor Davut Gul told reporters. The attackers were carrying long-barrelled weapons.

Interior Minister Mustafa Cifti said on X that the assailants had travelled from the city of Izmit, about 100 kilometres east of Istanbul, in a rented car. One of them was linked to a group he described as "exploiting religion", though he did not name the organisation. The Islamic State group has carried out deadly attacks in Turkiye in the past.

The two wounded assailants, identified as brothers Onur C. and Enes C., are being interrogated, according to the Interior Ministry. One has a criminal record related to drugs. Video footage of the incident showed one attacker carrying what appeared to be an assault rifle, wearing a brown backpack and taking cover behind a bus while exchanging fire with police. A police officer is seen falling to the ground, apparently shot, before rolling behind a tree for cover.

One officer was injured in the leg and the other in the ear, the Interior Ministry said.

US strikes Iran's Kharg Island oil hub again

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: The US has again struck Iran's key oil hub of Kharg Island, according to a White House official who was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The US targeted military sites on the island, the official said on Tuesday. The strikes came hours before a deadline set by President Donald Trump for Iran to meet his demands or face a major attack. He has also threatened to deploy ground troops to seize critical oil infrastructure on the island.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency reported several explosions on Kharg Island, without providing further details.

US slams EU 'interference' in Hungarian election

US vice president campaigns for Victor Orban

BUDAPEST, REUTERS

US Vice President JD Vance on Tuesday lashed out at what he called "disgraceful" interference by the European Union in Hungary's election, while praising Prime Minister Viktor Orban as an ally of President Donald Trump in the defence of Western civilisation.

Vance's visit to Budapest, just days before a vote that independent polls suggest Orban is likely to lose, underscores how crucial Trump's MAGA movement considers the veteran Hungarian nationalist's re-election.

His criticism of Brussels is also likely to deepen divisions between Washington and European leaders already unsettled by Trump's policies, including the war on Iran. "What has happened in this country during this election campaign is one of the worst examples of foreign election interference that I've ever seen or even read about," Vance told a news conference.

"The bureaucrats in Brussels have tried to destroy Hungary's economy. They have tried to make Hungary less energy-independent. They have tried to drive up costs for Hungarian consumers — and they've done it all because they hate this guy," he said, referring to Orban. Vance's visit on the eve of Sunday's election has itself drawn criticism from Orban's challenger, Peter Magyar, who warned of foreign interference.

Vance said other European countries should follow Orban's energy policies, though it was not immediately clear whether he was referring to Hungary's imports of Russian oil and gas. Orban has maintained close ties with Moscow despite the Ukraine war, arguing that Russian energy remains essential for Hungary.

STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL

A photo released by Nasa shows Earth as it dips beyond the lunar horizon, also known as "Earthset," as seen from the Orion spacecraft on Monday. The four astronauts are on their way home after a flyby of the Moon. AFP

30 Indian fishermen released

COLOMBO, PTI: At least 30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka on Tuesday and are currently on their way home, authorities said.

"Thirty Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka today and are on their way home," the Indian High Commission said in a post on X.

According to the Sri Lanka Navy, as of April 2026, 15 trawlers and 102 Indian fishermen have been detained. In 2025, 346 fishermen were arrested in 44 trawlers. Navy spokesperson Commander Buddika Sampath said he was not certain which batch of detainees the 30 fishermen belonged to.

Two women among four in race for UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

Two women are among four candidates in the race to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, amid growing calls for the first female leader of the global organisation in its 80-year history.

The process to elect the next UN Secretary-General begins this month, with the nominated candidates set to participate in interactive dialogues at the UN Headquarters on April 21 and 22.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal and former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will complete his second five-year term in December 2026. He assumed office in 2017 as the ninth Secretary-General of the UN, which has never had a woman at its helm.

The candidates for the post are former Chilean President and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet; Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and former Vice President of Costa Rica Rebeca Grynspan; Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi; and former Senegal President Macky Sall. Bachelet has been nominated by Brazil and Mexico, Grynspan by Costa Rica, Grossi by Argentina, and Sall by Burundi. The Office of the President of the UN General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock, said the interactive dialogues, comprising three-hour sessions for each candidate, will be held over two days.

The Secretary-General is appointed by the 193-member General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council, the powerful 15-member body where China, France, Russia, the UK and the US hold permanent seats with veto powers.

A UN General Assembly resolution adopted in September last year noted "with regret" that no woman has ever held the position and encouraged Member States to "strongly consider nominating women" for the post.

UK blocks Kanye West entry, Wireless Festival cancelled

LONDON, REUTERS

Britain has blocked US rapper Kanye West from entering the country to headline London's Wireless Festival in July over his past antisemitic remarks and praise of Nazism.

Organiser Festival Republic said his permission to enter and perform in Britain was withdrawn on Tuesday, leading to the cancellation of the three-day festival. Refunds will be issued to all ticket holders.

The government had been under pressure to deny entry to West, now known as Ye, after he was named the headline act on April 1. Several major companies had already withdrawn sponsorship from the event.

Singer Kanye West attends the 2020 Vanity Fair Oscar Party. AFP FILE

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the artist should never have been invited to headline the festival. "We will always take the action necessary to protect the public and uphold our values," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ye had offered to meet Britain's Jewish community, saying his goal was to present a show of change and promote "unity, peace and love through music".

He has performed in the US and Mexico City this year but was barred from Australia last July after releasing a song titled "Heil Hitler" that promoted Nazism. He also advertised a swastika T-shirt for sale on his website.

Decorated Australian soldier faces war crime charges

MELBOURNE, AP/PTI: Australia's most decorated living veteran, Ben Roberts-Smith, faces war crime charges over allegations that he killed five unarmed Afghans while serving in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2012, police and media reported on Tuesday.

Police have not officially confirmed the identity of the 47-year-old former soldier arrested on Tuesday. However, he has been widely identified in media reports as Roberts-Smith, a former Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) corporal who was awarded both the Victoria Cross and the Medal for Gallantry for his service.

He was charged on Tuesday with five counts of war crime murder. According to a police statement, he will remain in custody overnight and is due to make his first court appearance on Wednesday. He is expected to apply for bail.

Roberts-Smith is only the second Australian veteran of the Afghanistan campaign to face war crime charges. Former SAS soldier Oliver Schulz, 44, has pleaded not guilty to a similar charge. He is accused of shooting an Afghan man, Dad Mohammad, three times in the head in a wheat field in Uruzgan province in May 2012.

Nepal recalls envoys from six countries, including India

KATHMANDU, PTI: Nepal has recalled its ambassadors from six countries, including India, who were appointed by the previous K P Sharma Oli-led government.

The government has recalled ambassadors serving in India, Australia, Sri Lanka, Denmark, South Korea and South Africa. Those recalled include Shankar Prasad Sharma (India), Chitralekha (Australia), Sumnima Tuladhar (Denmark), Purna Nepali (Sri Lanka), Shivamaya (South Korea) and Kapilman Shrestha (South Africa).

WORLD AT A GLANCE

French officials transport a person from the wreckage of a TGV train after its collision with a lorry in Bully-les-Mines on Tuesday. The driver of the TGV train died and 27 people were injured in the accident. AFP

Bill Gates to testify in front of US House panel on Jeffrey Epstein

▶ Billionaire Bill Gates is set to testify on June 10 before a congressional committee investigating the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell, AFP reports from Washington.

Bill Gates

A source close to the matter told AFP on Tuesday that the Microsoft co-founder is among the prominent names appearing in documents released by the US Justice Department, which revealed close friendships, illicit financial dealings and private photos linked to Epstein. The source said Gates would sit for a "transcribed interview", indicating his testimony would take place in the same closed-door setting used for former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state. Gates has admitted making a "huge mistake" in associating with Epstein, telling staff at his charity foundation that he had affairs with two Russian women, while denying any involvement in the disgraced financier's crimes.

B'desh measles death toll at 100

▶ Bangladesh is conducting emergency measles-rubella vaccinations while trying to contain an ongoing outbreak that has killed more than 100 children in less than a month, AP/PTI reports from Dhaka.

The government, in partnership with the World Health Organisation, the UN children's agency and the Gavi vaccine alliance, began working to vaccinate children aged 6 months to 5 years old in 18 high-risk districts on Sunday and will expand nationwide in phases from next month, a joint statement said. A UNICEF official said the agency was deeply concerned about the sharp rise in cases, which was putting the youngest and most vulnerable children at serious risk.

A person holds a placard during a picket of doctors on the first day of a six-day industrial action after rejecting the government's 3.5% pay increase in Manchester, Britain, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Taiwan Oppn leader visits China

▶ A delegation of Taiwan's opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party, led by its leader Cheng Li-wun, arrived in Shanghai on Tuesday for a six-day visit during which she is expected to meet President Xi Jinping to discuss easing cross-strait tensions, PTI reports from Beijing.

Cheng's visit, which is being closely watched globally, marks the first trip by a KMT leader to China in a decade.

The focus of the visit is expected to be her meeting with Xi, who has intensified efforts to "reunify" Taiwan since assuming power in 2012, giving the issue high military and diplomatic priority under China's One-China policy.

'Chess fostered racial equality'

▶ Chess, often described as a "game of kings", acted as a great equaliser during the medieval era by valuing intellectual prowess over race, a University of Cambridge study has claimed, PTI reports from London.

In Chess and Race in the Global Middle Ages, historian Dr Krisztina Ilko collates international evidence to show how the game challenged racial stereotypes and social structures. She traces chess's origins to Arabic shatranj and Middle Persian chatrang, both derived from a variant of the Sanskrit word chaturanga, meaning "four-limbed". This reflects the idea that chess pieces were inspired by the four main divisions of the ancient Indian army — infantry, cavalry, chariots and elephants.

Former France's President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy leave the courtroom following a recess in his appeal trial over graft charges in Paris on Tuesday. AFP

Biocon aims to be the global leader in insulin business

Looks to capture 20% of world market in five years as global majors are exiting category

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based biopharmaceuticals major Biocon Limited aspires to be the global leader in the insulin business in the next five years as all the big insulin companies want to get out of the category and focus on GLP-1 drugs, said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon Group.

"The big companies want to exit the insulin business. They want to make insulin only in vials and GLP-1s. Nobody wants to make insulin in pens and cartridges. We are the only company to make insulin in pens and cartridges," she told visiting media-persons at Biocon's research and manufacturing facilities, here.

She added that Biocon was the first company to be approved for the interchangeable insulin. "Insulin technology is a very special technology. We developed our own technology when many people told us that we will fail. But we followed our process and got success," she said.

Key Highlights

- In 2021, there were about **537 mn** adults living with diabetes. This number is expected to rise to **643 mn** by 2030
- The global cost of diabetes for 2019 was estimated at **$760 bn**, accouting for 1-8% of the global GDP
- Biocon has emerged as the third largest supplier of both rh-Insulin and Insulin Glargine worldwide

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

- Biocon has provided over **9.2 bn** doses of insulin worldwide
- It aims to reach 1 in 5 insulin-dependent people with diabetes

Biocon is also the only company in the world with two interchangeable insulins. "It is not just bio-similar, it is bio-identical," she said.

Mazumdar-Shaw said Biocon is witnessing huge demand for its insulin and is expanding its insulin capacities. "It is an essential life-saving medicine for many people. We will continue to expand capacities," she added.

Globally, approximately 537 million adults (20-79 years) were living with diabetes in 2021, and this number is expected to rise to 643 million by 2030, and 783 million by 2045. Biocon has emerged as the third-largest supplier by biologic volume of both rh-Insulin and Insulin Glargine worldwide.

The global cost of diabetes for 2019 was estimated at $760 billion, accounting for 1-8% of the global GDP, and this number is expected to rise.

Biocon has a significant presence in the US market and currently one in five insulin-dependent patients in the US use Biocon's insulin. It aims to capture similar market size world over, including India. "Our aim is to achieve 20% market share in the global insulin market," Shreehas Tambe, CEO and MD of Biocon told *DH*.

Mazumdar-Shaw said Biocon has approvals across 80 countries for its insulin and it plans to expand. "We have identified 20 emerging markets as growth markets. Our aspiration is to tap one in five insulin-dependent patients in the next five years," she added.

In 2004, Biocon pioneered the development of a recombinant human insulin using its proprietary Pichia pastoris platform. Biocon offers a portfolio of regular, long-acting, and rapid-acting insulins.

New products

Biocon is also gearing up to launch five new products in the market this year. It has already developed three new products for launch shortly.

"We are partnering with local companies in the US, India and other parts of the world. Overall, when we include manufacturing alliances along with our own integrated facilities, we have enough facilities," Mazumdar-Shaw added.

Tambe said diabetes cases are projected to grow by 45% over the next 10 years and touch 850 million.

Biocon aims to focus on three major areas — oncology, diabetes, and immunology.

BMI lowers India's GDP growth projection for FY27 to 6.7%

Says West Asia conflict may continue for another month

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BMI, a unit of Fitch Group, on Tuesday lowered its projection on India's GDP growth for the current financial year by 30 basis points to 6.7%, citing slowing economic activities amid the West Asia conflict.

"Our Middle East team now expects the conflict to last for another month. Aside from raising business costs through higher energy prices, the conflict will also keep uncertainty elevated. This discourages investment and further drags down GDP growth," BMI said in a note.

The research agency also lowered its projection on India's economic growth for fiscal 2025-26 to 7.6%, from its earlier estimate of 7.8%.

BMI's projection for 2025-26 is in line with the National Statistical Office (NSO) forecast of 7.6%. India's GDP expanded by 7.1% in 2024-25, as per the latest official data.

BMI said its downward revision of its projection on India's economic growth "reflects deteriorating high-frequency indicators of economic activity." Industrial production grew just 4.3% year-on-year in the January-March quarter, down from 5.3% recorded in the previous quarter.

Likewise, the value of real-time gross settlement transactions in India's financial system fell by more than 11 percentage points to 0.7% year-on-year during the quarter ended March 2026.

Growth moderates

- Projection on economic growth for FY2025-26 lowered to **7.6%**, from earlier **7.8%**
- GDP expands by **7.1%** in 2024-25, as per latest official data
- Industrial production grows **4.3%** YoY in the Jan-March quarter, down from **5.3%**

"Aside from raising business costs through higher energy prices, the conflict will also keep uncertainty elevated. - **BMI,** a unit of Fitch Group

"We think the downturn in activity partly reflects rising uncertainty during Q12026. The announcement of an India-US trade deal, followed by the Supreme Court possibly revoking the deal when striking down Liberation Day tariffs, and the increasing probability of war in Iran greatly increased policy uncertainty," it said.

It added that the risks to the outlook skew downwards. Many of these risks centre around foreign investments in India, which turned negative on a net basis during the last fiscal. A greater than expected increase in uncertainty or sudden rupee depreciation may hurt business confidence. This could exacerbate investment outflows and dampen growth.

Higher trade and logistics costs also pose downside risks to India's economy. We currently envision the Iran conflict as presenting a negative terms-of-trade shock to India. In our baseline forecast, even as consumption and investments fall due to costlier energy, the higher relative price of imports to exports partially offsets domestic demand's impact on GDP by improving real net exports, BMI said in its research note.

Higher freight costs could amplify the effects of this terms-of-trade shock by contracting India's supply of imported inputs or hurting demand for India's exports. Either of these effects would dampen GDP growth.

Other agencies have also lowered their projections on India's GDP growth citing West Asia conflict. Ratings agency Moody's has lowered its projection on India's economic growth for the current fiscal to 6%, from its earlier estimate of 6.8%.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has pegged India's FY27 growth projection at 6.1%.

RBI may keep rates unchanged: Analysts

Governor to announce MPC decisions today

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In its first monetary policy review of the fiscal to be announced on Wednesday, the RBI is likely to keep key interest rates unchanged amid the West Asia conflict, which is expected to hit growth and lead to higher inflationary pressure.

The three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) concludes on Wednesday. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, who is the ex-officio head of the six-member rate-setting panel, is scheduled to announce the MPC decisions.

Analysts said the MPC is expected to adopt a cautious approach and keep key policy rates unchanged.

"As the situation is still evolving, we expect RBI to maintain the status quo in the upcoming policy," SBI Research said.

In the December 2025 monetary policy statement, Malhotra had used the phrase "goldilocks" to describe India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals with GDP growth of over 8% and headline inflation below 2%.

Analysts underline the goldilocks moment has faded due to the conflict and it would be reflected in the Governor's statement on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has underlined that the government's prudent fiscal management has created room for the RBI to cut rates. "India has fiscal space—room to maintain our capex programme, room for the RBI to cut rates," Sitharaman remarked at an event on Monday.

"While maintaining macroeconomic stability remains critical, the central bank must also balance growth support with inflation control. In this context, a 25 bps rate cut would provide timely support to the broader economy, including the real estate sector," said Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global (India) Ltd.

Adani moves US court over SEC fraud case

NEW YORK, PTI: Billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani have asked a United States court to dismiss a securities fraud lawsuit brought by the US Securities and Exchange Commission, arguing that the case falls outside American jurisdiction and fails to establish any wrongdoing.

In a pre-motion letter filed ahead of a planned April 30 motion seeking dismissal of the lawsuit, the Adanis through their lawyers said the SEC's claims over a 2021 bond sale by the group's renewable energy arm, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) are legally-flawed on multiple grounds.

The SEC had sued the Adanis in November 2024, alleging that they misled investors by failing to disclose an alleged bribery scheme tied to Indian state officials, framing the case under US securities laws.

Adanis argued that the court lacks personal jurisdiction, saying neither had sufficient contacts with the US or direct involvement in the bond offering.

The $750-million bond sale was conducted outside the US under Rule 144A and Regulation S exemptions, with securities sold to non-US underwriters and only later resold in part to qualified institutional buyers, they said.

Lawyers added the complaint does not allege that Gautam Adani approved the issuance, attended key meetings, or directed any activity at US investors.

The filing also contends the SEC's case is impermissibly extraterritorial, noting the securities were not listed in the US, the issuer is Indian, and the alleged misconduct occurred entirely in India.

Air India CEO's resignation comes in turbulent times

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson—who has been commanding the transformation of the flagship airline—has resigned.

The resignation of the chief of the Tata Group-owned airline comes within a year of the devastating June 12, 2025, crash of Air India Flight 171 in Ahmedabad, shortly after take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport for London-Gatwick, which led to the death of 260 people, including 241 on board. Besides, Air India witnessed operational delays, rising losses, a slower-than-expected turnaround, and faced geopolitical disruptions.

The Tata Group took over Air India from the government on January 27, 2022. Wilson has been serving as CEO and MD since July 25 of the same year.

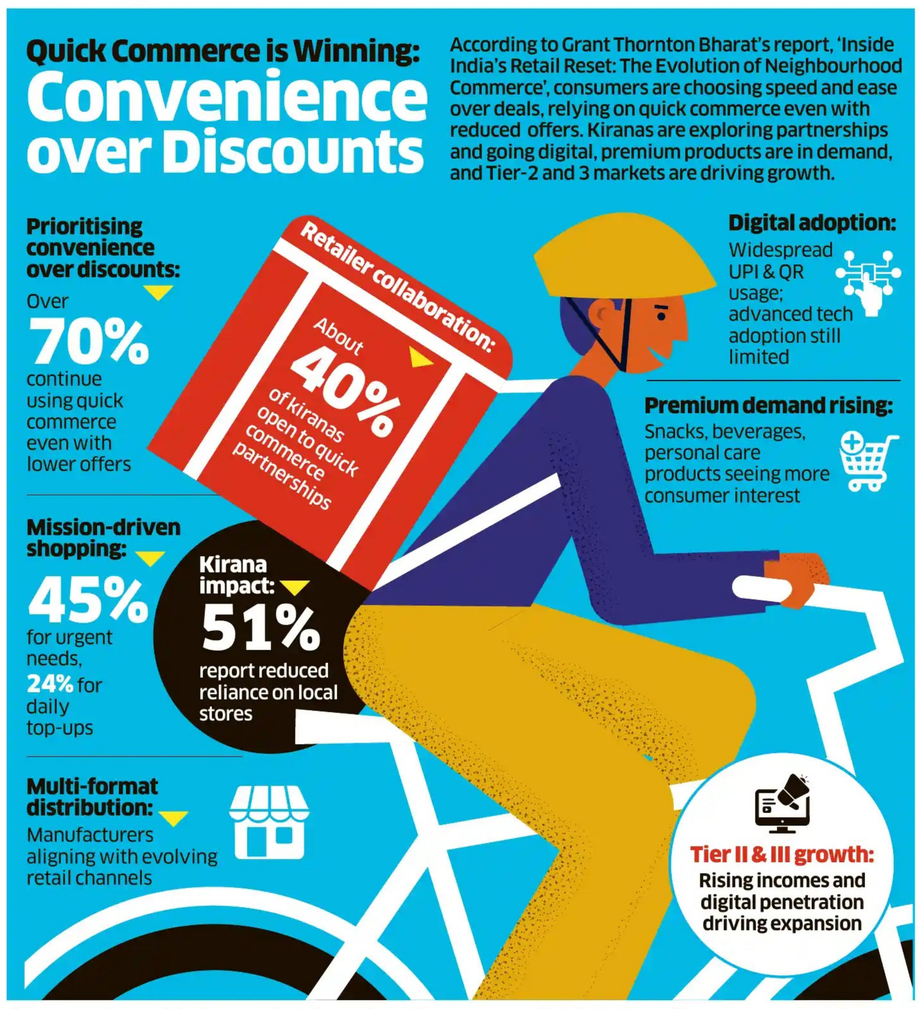
Wilson, a veteran in the aviation industry, will remain in the role until a successor is in place. The Board of Air India has constituted a committee to find a successor in the coming months.

Wilson had conveyed his intention to step down in 2026 to Tata Sons Chairman and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran in 2024. Since then, he has worked to ensure that the organisation and leadership team are on a stable footing for the transition.

"The four years since Air India's privatisation have seen the acquisition and successful merger of four airlines, an evolution from public to private sector practices, along with renewal of the leadership team, workforce, culture and ways of operating," said Wilson.

Chandrasekaran said he wishes to place on record deep appreciation for Wilson's leadership and contribution over four years.

Campbell Wilson


Quick Commerce is Winning:
Convenience over Discounts
According to Grant Thornton Bharat's report, 'Inside India's Retail Reset: The Evolution of Neighbourhood Commerce', consumers are choosing speed and ease over deals, relying on quick commerce even with reduced offers. Kiranas are exploring partnerships and going digital, premium products are in demand, and Tier-2 and 3 markets are driving growth.
Prioritising convenience over discounts:
Over 70% continue using quick commerce even with lower offers
Retailer collaboration:
About 40% of kiranas open to quick commerce partnerships
Digital adoption:
Widespread UPI & QR usage; advanced tech adoption still limited
Premium demand rising:
Snacks, beverages, personal care products seeing more consumer interest
Kirana impact:
51% report reduced reliance on local stores
Mission-driven shopping:
45% for urgent needs, 24% for daily top-ups
Multi-format distribution:
Manufacturers aligning with evolving retail channels
Tier II & III growth:
Rising incomes and digital penetration driving expansion

*The survey size used for the report includes 1,600-1,800 consumers and 1,000-1,200 retail operators (Report compiled by Naveen Malpani, Partner and Consumer Industry Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat)

DH GRAPHIC: Guru Prasath R

Vision Group eyes ways to push growth in deep tech

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vision Group on Startups held its eighth meeting here on Tuesday and discussed issues of priority for 2026-27. The discussions focused on accelerating growth in deep tech sectors, expanding the startup ecosystem beyond Bengaluru, strengthening funding mechanisms and enhancing policy support.

"The Vision Group is focused on ensuring that the state continues to create high-impact startups, while also improving access to capital, mentorship and market opportunities. "By strengthening both policy and ecosystem support, Karnataka is well-positioned to lead the next wave of innovation," said Prashant Prakash, Vision Group Chairperson.

Karnataka has built one of the strongest startup ecosystems in India, and the next phase of growth will be driven by deep tech innovation, stronger industry-academia collaboration and expansion into emerging regions, he said.

N Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, said, "The government is focused on creating a more accessible and inclusive startup ecosystem across the state, with targeted interventions to support founders at every stage of their journey." Through strengthened policy support, improved programme delivery and expanded infrastructure in emerging regions, the government aims to ensure that startups across Karnataka have the resources, mentorship and market access required to grow and succeed, she added.

Pak's payment of UAE loan affects its economy

ISLAMABAD, REUTERS: Pakistan will return a $3.5 billion loan to the UAE this month, Pakistani officials said on Tuesday, raising pressure on reserves and risking breaches of IMF programme targets after it a repaid $1.3 billion Eurobond due April 8.

The repayment comes as Pakistan targets forex reserves above $18 billion by June under a $7 billion IMF programme, which requires bilateral deposits to be rolled over.

IN BRIEF

Sensex jumps over 500 points

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Tuesday, as a drop in crude prices and a rally in global markets calmed investor sentiment. Also, buying in IT stocks aided recovery in the markets after early losses.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 509.73 points, or 0.69%, to settle at 74,616.58. During the day, it hit a high of 74,686.32 and a low of 73,282.41, gyrating 1,403.91 points. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 155.40 points, or 0.68%, to end at 23,123.65.

The rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at 93.06 against the dollar, ahead of US President Donald Trump's deadline to open the Strait of Hormuz and RBI's monetary policy review.

Govt's CGS scheme for businesses

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Centre is considering a Rs 2.5-lakh crore credit guarantee scheme (CGS) to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis, sources said.

Under the scheme, a credit guarantee of about 90% on loans of up to Rs 100 crore would be provided to lenders in case of default by borrowers due to the US-Iran conflict.

The guarantee would be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the government.

GOOGLE-DELOITTE REPORT

'Quick commerce to become $50-bn powerhouse by 2030'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With growing number of people preferring quick deliveries and instant fulfilment, quick commerce is reshaping consumer expectations that the market is forecasted to grow 6X to reach $50 billion, serving about 70 million shoppers by 2030, according to the Google and Deloitte 'The $250 Billion Commerce Frontier' report.

Released on Tuesday, the report said the country's ecommerce market will reach $250 billion by 2030, from the present $90 billion.

It stated that the next wave of growth will be driven by tier-2+ markets and that the quick commerce model will also diversify beyond food to become a 40-45% non-food and service-driven model with emergence of specialist vertical players in multiple categories.

It added that as quick commerce scales, hybrid models integrating offline branded retail could emerge, contributing $15-20 billion incremental revenue.

The report mentioned that online shopper penetration remains at about 30% in India, which is lower than global peers, and this indicates substantial headroom for growth. By 2030, as 150 million new shoppers come online and the per capita e-commerce spend doubles, a younger, digital-native cohort of over 220 million GenZ shoppers will contribute 45% of online spend.

Google also launched shopping features in Gemini app, available in English and Hindi, leveraging AI to enhance user experience.

Roma Datta Chobey, Managing Director—Connected Consumer Commerce, Google India, said creators have become trusted advisors for consumers. "This report gives us a road map based on four forces: Inspired, Immersive, Instant, and Intelligent," she said. These are expected to contribute about $100 billion to commerce growth by 2030.

Creator-led commerce will become a key driver for e-commerce growth, contributing $25 billion in GMV by 2030. Creators will influence product discovery and purchase through authentic and creative content, supported by live demos, trusted reviews, and category-led guidance. Creator content will scale significantly, with creator-owned storefronts and online videos becoming instantly shoppable. Eventually, these formats will also help onboard 50-60 million new online shoppers from Tier-2 markets, the report explained. By 2030, creators will influence 30% of total retail spend, with one in 10 online purchases directly attributable to a creator storefront.

Anand Ramanathan, Partner & Consumer Industry Leader—South Asia, Deloitte said they are also beginning to see the emergence of curation-as-a-service, with AI-led journeys reshaping discovery, decision-making and fulfilment. For businesses, the opportunity lies in combining intelligent technology, creator ecosystems and agile supply chains to drive deeper engagement, higher wallet share and sustainable growth, he said.

The report also stated that Live Commerce is set to become an $8 billion sector, powered by Gen Z adoption. "This shift transforms social discovery into a high-velocity, experience-led sales engine—most-prominently across the Fashion, Beauty, and Electronics categories," it said.

Also, AI will drive 30-35% retail profitability boost, by hyper-personalising the shopping journey while driving significant operational efficiency.

Jr C'wealth champ Sairaj fails dope test

NEW DELHI, PTI: Commonwealth Championships (junior) gold medal-winning weightlifter Sairaj Pardeshi has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for a failed dope test, months after alleging a conspiracy to sabotage his career by a coach.

He has tested positive for "Metanolone", a banned anabolic steroid that aids muscle building.

The 18-year-old from Maharashtra, who won the gold in the men's 88kg junior category at the Commonwealth Championships last year, has alleged conspiracy behind the outcome.

He had written to the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) and the Sports Authority of India in October, claiming that a coach present at the national camp held a personal vendetta against him.

In an email dated October 24, 2025, Sairaj alleged that the coach, whose identity has been withheld by the weightlifter, instigated others to tamper with his food and water.

Dhruv-Tanisha pair wins on mixed day for India

NINGBO (CHINA) PTI: India's leading mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the second round, but the duo of Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani crashed out of the Badminton Asia Championships 2026, which got underway here on Tuesday.

Kapila and Crasto won 21-14, 11-21, 21-15 over Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard.

However, Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani went down fighting against Malaysia's eighth seeds Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie 13-21 19-21 in a 34-minute contest at the Ningbo Olympic Centre.

The Indian duo of Kapoor and Shivani struggled to find rhythm early on, conceding the first game comfortably, but showed signs of resistance in the second before the experienced Malaysian combination shut the door in straight games.

In another match, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also failed to cross the opening hurdle, losing 16-21 15-21 to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien in 31 minutes.

The focus will shift to singles competition on Wednesday with India's top stars set to begin their campaigns.

Shivaraj ton wins it for Young Lions

BENGALURU, DHNS: A rapid century by Shivaraj (125) helped Young Lions chase down a target of 180 runs in just 15 overs against CCE in an eight-wicket victory on the opening day of the Tiger Cup U-16 here on Tuesday.

Earlier, Arjun Bhardwaj claimed 4/32 as CCE innings folded at 179 in 28.4 overs with Soorya Rao (60) being the only one to make a telling contribution.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: CCE: 179 all out in 28.4 overs (Soorya Rao 60; Arjun Bhardwaj 4-32, Krishna Verma 2-16) lt to Young Lions: 180/2 in 15 overs (Shivaraj 125, Deekshith GH 46).

SCA: 134 all out in 29.5 overs (Samar Modhe 32; Vyom K Vijay 2-21) lt to Gopalan: 135/3 in 20.4 overs (Aadil Renjit 32, Ayaan WM 30).

Kapil CC: 73/9 in 21.5 overs (Diganth NR 46; Vikram 4-20, Krishna Kumar 3-18) lt to Kreeda Kshetra: 75/1 in 5.3 overs (Tansh Krishna M 34, Viaan Joshi 30)

Presidency: 75 all out in 19.1 overs (Ankith G Gaddi 26; Atharv VK 4-10, Samarth BK 2-7) lt to RRCC: 76/2 in 7.4 overs (Samanyu T 36, Yashwanth 25).

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Atletico search for perfect game

Simeone's side takes on former champs Barcelona in the quarterfinals

BARCELONA, AFP

Antoine Griezmann's Barcelona story ended in the depths of misery but as he returns to Camp Nou in the Champions League quarterfinals, the French forward is desperate to close out his time with Atletico Madrid on the greatest of highs.

Diego Simeone's side, defeated in the 2014 and 2016 finals, have never lifted the trophy and veteran forward Griezmann, who will move to MLS side Orlando City at the end of the season, has not won a trophy with Atletico since the 2018 Europa League and subsequent UEFA Super Cup.

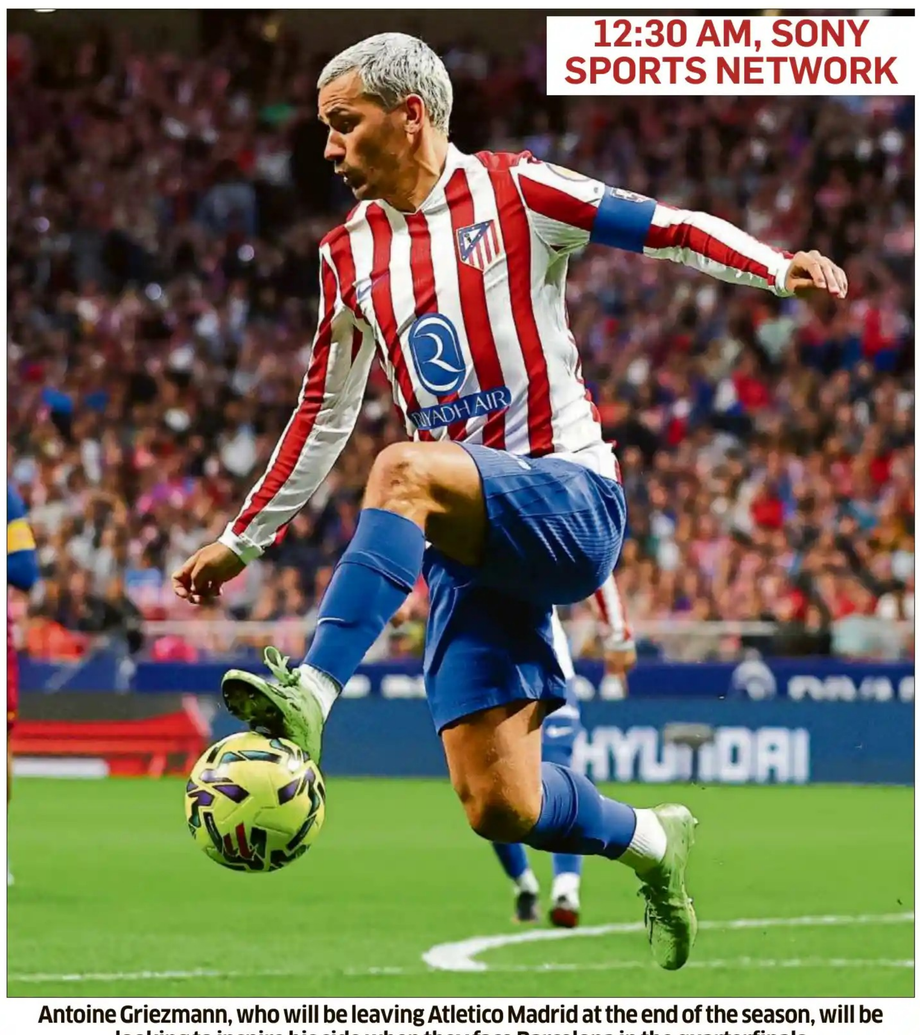
Griezmann switched Atletico for Barca in 2019, lasting just two years in the Catalan capital before returning to Simeone's side on loan, and making the return permanent in 2022.

During that short stint in Barca colours, Griezmann missed out on Atletico's La Liga title win in 2021, a trophy that has eluded him throughout his career.

At Barca he was on the receiving end of the brutal 8-2 thrashing by Bayern in the 2020 Champions League quarterfinals, and failed to fit into the team alongside Lionel Messi.

Griezmann wants to leave Atletico, where he is the all-time top scorer with 211 goals, with major silverware in his hands at last, to add to the 2018 World Cup he won with France.

The first step towards that, since announcing the decision to depart last week, is at Camp Nou on Wednesday in the fifth meeting between Atletico and Barca this season.



Antoine Griezmann, who will be leaving Atletico Madrid at the end of the season, will be looking to inspire his side when they face Barcelona in the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Wednesday. REUTERS

Orlando wanted him to join by the end of March, but Griezmann said he would stay at Atletico, in no small part for a final shot at the biggest trophy in the club game, as well as the Copa del Rey final.

The 35-year-old, one of Simeone's very greatest soldiers during the coach's 14-year reign, combined the work ethic the Argentine demanded with immense skill and quality.

Griezmann may not have won as many trophies as he would have liked, but has often dazzled with his elegance and vision.

Griezmann has rocked Barca before, scoring twice in the 2016 quarterfinals a decade ago to send Atletico through and knock out Messi, Luis Suarez, Neymar and Co, although that campaign ended in tears in the Milan final at the hands of rivals Real Madrid.

After Griezmann started in the 2-1 La Liga defeat by Barca on Saturday, there is the chance he may be used from the bench on Wednesday.

PSG favourites

When Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool last met in the Champions League a year ago, the Anfield outfit were marching towards the Premier League title and were described as "an almost perfect team" by the French club's coach Luis Enrique.

Fast forward to this season and a formidable PSG appear clear favourites as the sides clash again in the Champions League quarterfinals, with the first leg in Paris on Wednesday.

PSG's triumph on penalties against Liverpool in the last 16 last season was pivotal on their run to a first-ever Champions League title.

They had to overturn a 1-0 defeat at home in a first leg they completely dominated before holding their nerve at Anfield, and the two teams have set off on different trajectories since.

Arne Slot's side somewhat ran out of steam after that, albeit having done more than enough to get over the line in the Premier League.

This season has been a huge disappointment, however, and they return to Paris in especially downbeat mood after a chastening 4-0 defeat against Manchester City in the FA Cup quarterfinals.

All but over for Praggnanandhaa

Indian goes down to Giri for second loss of tournament

PAPHOS (CYPRUS), PTI

Anish Giri

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa almost went out of contention for a top place finish after a loss against Anish Giri of the Netherlands in the eighth round of the Candidates chess tournament here on Tuesday.

On a day when Uzbek Javokhir Sindarov just decided to consolidate his lead and drew with tailender Andrey Esipenko of Russia, Praggnanandhaa, who had scored his sole victory over Giri in the first round, fell prey to some simple tactics from a seemingly equal position and lost his second game in the tournament.

Sindarov took his tally to 6.5 points out of a possible eight and looks like headed for a victory as his lead now stands at a massive two points with six rounds remaining in the USD 700000 prize money tournament that will also select the next challenger for reigning world champion D Gukesh in the world championship match later this year.

Sindarov is now followed by Giri and Fabiano Caruana of United States who both are two points behind and need a miracle to catch up with the leader. Praggnanandhaa, Wei Yi of China, Matthias BLuebaum of Germany and Hikaru Nakamura of the USA share the fourth spot on 3.5 points each, a full point clear of last placed Esipenko.

It was a hard day at work for Praggnanandhaa who started off with the Vienna variation with the black pieces. After initial opening discussions, Giri enjoyed a small advantage that the Indian was able to neutralize as the game progressed.

In the women's section, R Vaishali ensured that she remained within striking distance of the leader and drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva.

While the other games were still in progress in this section, it seemed like Zhu Jiner was poised to give a knockout blow to Chinese compatriot Zhong Tan, Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine is likely to protect her half point lead on 5 points as she was headed to a draw with Divya Deshmukh while Kateryna Lagno defeated fellow Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina.

Results round 8: Anish Giri (Ned, 4.5) bt R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 3.5) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4.5); Andrey Esipenko (Rus, 2.5) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 6.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 3.5).
Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 4.5) playing Divya Deshmukh (3.5); Kateryna Lagno (Rus, 4.5) bt Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus, 3); Bibisara Assuabayeva (Kaz, 3.5) drew with R Vaishali (Ind, 4.5); Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 2.5) playing Jiner Zhu (Chn, 3).

Minakshi, Jaismine to fight for gold in Asian C'ships

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), PTI

Reigning world champions Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda progressed to the finals along with two others at the Asian Boxing Championships here on Tuesday, taking India's total finalists to eight.

Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) and Sachin Siwach (60kg) also registered impressive semifinal wins, while Akash (75kg), Lokesh (85kg), Narender Berwal (90+kg) and Harsh Choudhary (90kg) signed off with bronze medals.

India will thus have eight boxers -- six women and two men fighting in the final.

In the women's 48kg semifinal, Minakshi secured a confident 4-1 win over Thailand's Thipsatcha Yodwaree to book her place in the gold medal bout, where she will face local favourite Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan.

Jaismine joined her in the finals after edging past Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova 3-2 in a hard-fought 57kg semifinal. The 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist will take on Thailand's Punrawee Ruenros in the title clash.

In the men's section, Vishvanath, who had stunned reigning world champion and world No. 1 Sanzhar Tashkenbay of Kazakhstan in the previous round, continued his fine run with a dominant 5-0 victory over Jordan's Huthaifa Eshish to advance to the final.

India's Jaismine Lamboria edged past Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova in the 57kg semifinal. X

World Cup medallist Sachin (60kg) also impressed, posting a solid 4-1 win over Thailand's Sakda Ruamtham in his semifinal.

Akash, however, lost 1-4 to Uzbekistan's Javokhir Abdurakhimov while Lokesh went down 0-5 against Jasurbek Yuldoshev of Uzbekistan.

Asian Games bronze medallist Narender suffered a 1-4 defeat to China's Bayikewuzi Danabieke with the bout being stopped in the first round due to a cut.

Harsh Choudhary also went down by a similar 1-4 margin to Tajikistan's Parviz Karimov.

In other key finals featuring Indian boxers, Preeti (54kg) will go up against Chinese Taipei's Huang Hsiao-wen, while Priya (60kg) faces North Korea's Un Gyong Won. Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) is set to meet Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish in her gold medal bout.

India in must-win territory at U-20 Women's Asian Cup

PATHUM THANI (THAILAND), PTI: India will take on Chinese Taipei in their final Group C fixture of the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup here on Wednesday, knowing that nothing short of a victory will keep their hopes of reaching the quarterfinals alive.

After defeats in their opening two matches against Japan and Australia, both India and Chinese Taipei find themselves in identical situations but India's goal difference of -11 makes things a bit more complicated than Chinese Taipei's -7.

India women to tour Argentina

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indian senior women's hockey team will tour Argentina for a four-match series, set to be held at the CeNARD in Buenos Aires from April 13 to 17.

Sjoerd Marijne-coached Indian team will play four matches on April 13, 14, 16, and 17 at Argentina's National Centre of High Performance Athletics (also known as CeNARD).

India and Argentina have enjoyed competitive encounters in recent years, including a thrilling 2-2 draw decided by a shootout in the FIH Pro League last June.

The upcoming tour comes ahead of the FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands and the Asian Games later this year.

Speaking on the tour, Indian women's hockey team chief coach Marijne said, "We are travelling to Argentina with a squad of 24 players, and that is a very deliberate choice. This tour is about giving more players the chance to perform at the highest level. Argentina is one of the best teams in the world, and that environment will tell us a lot about where each player stands. We want to see who steps up when it matters.

"To earn a place in this team, you need to show everyone that you are a team player first. Individual quality is important, but if you cannot connect with the group and work for each other, it will be very difficult to make this squad."

Both the men's and women's World Cups will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands respectively from Aug 15 to 30 while the Asian Games will be in Aichi–Nagoya, Japan from Sept 19 to Oct 4.

India's Palak (left) and Mukesh Nelavalli won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold in the ISSF World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) in Granada, Spain, on Tuesday. NRAI

Shooters Palak, Mukesh shatter world record to win gold

GRANADA, PTI: Indian shooters Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli shattered the world record on way to winning a gold medal in 10m air pistol mixed team competition at the ISSF World Cup for rifle and and pistol here on Tuesday.

The Indian duo aggregated 487.7 to clinch the top prize, which is also a junior world record.

The pair showcased strong form in the qualification round too, securing a spot in the medal match with a score of 581-17x.

China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu bagged the silver medal with 484.8, while Hungary's Veronika Major and Akos Karoly Nagy settled for bronze with a combined total of 414.9 in the final.

While Palak hit 243.0 in the final, Mukesh scored 244.7.

Palak and Mukesh were second in the qualifications, behind the Chinese duo that scored 586-23x.

Palak, 18, first gained prominence by winning the 10m air pistol individual gold and team silver medals at the 2023 Asian Games. By setting an Asian Games record of 242.1 points, she also secured a 2024 Paris Olympic quota.

Mukesh is another rising star in Indian pistol shooting, and is a junior world champion.

Silver for Lalit, Sunil takes bronze

BISHKEK (KYRGYZSTAN), PTI: Lalit bagged India's first medal of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships, claiming a silver in the 55kg Greco Roman category while Nitesh reached the final of the 97kg competition here on Tuesday.

Former champion Sunil Kumar added another bronze medal to his trophy cabinet to make it a fruitful day for the Indian contingent.

Lalit, who had packed off China's Huoying Shi in the semifinals, put up a strong resistance against Ikhtiyor Botirov of Uzbekistan in the final.

Bengaluru's Adit grabs U-12 title at US Kids Golf in Thailand

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Adit Veeramachaneni stole the limelight by winning the boys under-12 category at the US Kids Golf Thailand Championship in Hua Hin.

Overall, seven of the 14 Indian golfers in fray finished in top-6 in different categories at the Black Mountain Golf Club.

Adit was the best with under par rounds on all three days with 71-67-71 for a 7-under total.

Adit began the final round two shots behind Thailand's Skyy Wilding, who carded rounds of 69-67 on the first two days.

Starting his final round on the back nine Adit made an early birdie on the 12th hole followed by another on the 15th hole to become the sole leader. Both birdied the 17th but when the duo entered the front nine, Adit was one ahead. On the front nine both Adit and Skyy made one birdie and three bogeys as Adit held on to his slender lead and clinched the title.

Another good outing for the Indian contingent was Nihal Cheema as he ended second in boys under-9 category.

Zowra Sikand in 4th place (boys U-8 8), Ruslaan Alam Khan in 5th place (boys U-10), Vedaansh Jain was T-6 (boys U-10), Heydaan Bajaj was 5th (boys 13-14) and Ahana Shah was 6th (Girls 9-10).

Results (only Indians): Boys: 15-18 years: Ved Sai Machiraju (11th); **13-14 yrs:** Heydaan Bajaj (5th); Rayirth Jain (13th); Aryaveer Singh Grewal (T-14th); **12 yrs:** Adit Veeramachaneni (1st); **10 yrs:** Ruslaan Alam Khan (5th), Vedaansh Jain (T-6); **9 yrs:** Nihal Cheema (2nd), Samar Singh (12th); **8 yrs (9 holes):** Zowra Sikand (4th).
Girls: 9-10 yrs: Ahana Shah (6th), Suhani Chandra (17th), Aahana Srivastava (20th).
8 yrs (9 holes): Sunvisha Reddy Nara (10th).

Cueist Chitra delivers a much-needed double hit

Chitra Magimairaj

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chitra Magimairaj's cue sports career has largely been about misses rather than hits. Having played the sport at the elite level for nearly two-and-a-half decades, the 53-year-old has far more runner-up finishes than trophies in her cabinet.

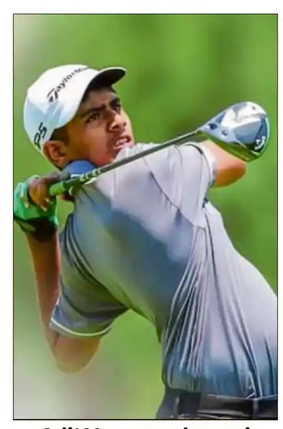
Taking that last step towards glory has always been the hardest part for the Bengalurean, who has just one national title each in billiards and 6-red snooker – pool excluded. Be it the mental block that grows more burdensome with every final failure, bout of nerves or inability to seize the moment... even Chitra has struggled to find answers for her last-step stumbles.

Even at the Pool Nationals last year in Indore, despite having played impressively right throughout, she succumbed to old rival Vidya Pillai in the 9-ball final. In the 10-ball event, she lost in the semifinals before salvaging a bronze. The losses came despite she being the sole women's professional pool player in the draw. Chitra gave up snooker and billiards three years ago to focus solely on pool.

It was this demon she was up against when she squared off against Madhya Pradesh's Ishika Shah in the final of 9-ball pool Nationals in Ludhiana about a week ago. But this time, she was a lot more assured and roared to 7-4 win to snap a long title drought at the national championships. That much-needed title triumph gave her plenty of confidence in the 10-ball event, where she defeated Neena Praveen 6-4 in the final to complete a grand double.

"It feels great, it's like a big monkey off my back now," an elated Chitra told *DH*. "Last year, I really wanted to win the nationals because I was the sole women's professional player in the draw. I had Predator as a sponsor. I really wanted to impress them. I wanted to show that I was India's No. 1 pool player. Because of it, I ended up putting a lot of pressure on myself.

"So this year, I wanted to take it easy. I was very well prepared. What helped me was the fact that I've been focussing solely on pool the last three years. All that practice paid off beautifully in the end. It's great to be holding two national titles. This will give me a lot of confidence when I go for events abroad," added Chitra who is now looking forward to a series of events in South East Asia.



Adit Veeramachaneni

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> There is no bigger bowler in the IPL than Starc. Bumrah is the only one I can think of. He has so much experience. Cricket Australia will update us. We need him as our main bowler.
>
> **MUNAF PATEL, DC BOWLING COACH**

IN BRIEF

Ajay stars in Ideal SA win

▸ Ajay's four-goal effort, along with Chandru, Cariappa KA, Vishal and Karthik finding the back of the net once each, saw Ideal Sports Academy score a 8-4 win over Bangalore Friends Hockey Club at the KSHA B Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Garudda HC: 4 (Anand 9th, 20th, 25th, 32nd) bt Ashco HC: 2 (Nithin 12th, 23rd); Ideal SA: 8 (Chandru 8th, Ajay 20th, 24th, 27th, 28th, Cariappa KA 41st, Vishal 51st, Karthik 58th) bt Bangalore Friends HC: 4 (Suresh 17th, 29th, 34th, Athul 55th).

K'taka squad for Asmita

▸ South Zone U-13 Champions Karnataka will take part in the Asmita National Football League in Mahilpur, Punjab from April 8, reports DHNS.

The Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) announced a 14-member squad, coached by Ekta Patil, for the tournament, where they will face Rajasthan (on April 8), Jharkhand (Apr 10), Assam (Apr 12) in Group H.

Squad: Avanthika Karthik, Ira Singh, Anvi Joshi, Gouri Patil, Lakshmi Bai, Madhumetha K, Richa Bhatia, Tvisha Amaresh, Pranitha VR, Subhathra A, Rukshana, Aditi K, Takshvi Mahajan, Anya Saxena.

State b'ball women's league

▸ The Karnataka State Basketball Association will conduct the State Women's League Basketball Championship from April 8 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The matches will be played in league cum Super League format. In the initial round, there are 33 teams split into 11 pools and one team from each pool will qualify for the super league divided into two groups. Later, top two teams from each group will enter the semifinal league.

Also, the top-10 teams at the event will form the A division with the rest in B division for 2027.

Chettri returns as India coach

▸ Crispin Chettri, who returned as the head coach of the Indian women's football team, has named a 22-member squad for the FIFA Series tournament in Kenya, reports PTI from New Delhi.

On Saturday, the Technical Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) had recommended Chhetri to succeed Costa Rican Amelia Valverde whose brief tenure ended recently.

Abhay loses to Ibrahim

▸ Top-ranked Indian Abhay Singh went down in a five-game thriller to world No 7 Youssef Ibrahim of Egypt in the men's second round of the El Gouna Open squash, a PSA Platinum event, in El Gouna, Egypt, reports PTI from New Delhi.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Delhi Captals vs Gujarat Titans **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHostar.**

FOOTBALL

Champions League (quarterfinal leg-1): PSG vs Liverpool, Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid **(both 12:30 am, Thursday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

Europa League (quarterfinal leg-1): Braga vs Real Batis **(10:15 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup: India vs Chinese Taipei **(2:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

Monte Carlo Masters: Round of 32 **(1:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Fiery Royals make it three in a row

Jaiswal, bowlers seal 27-run win in rain-hit game

GUWAHATI, PTI

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi turned a rain-curtailed IPL match into a fireworks show as Rajasthan Royals registered a commanding 27-run win over Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Rajasthan amassed an imposing 150 for 3 in 11 overs, riding on Jaiswal's unbeaten 32-ball 77 and Sooryavanshi's explosive 39 after being sent in to bat.

The opening pair laid the foundation with a rapid 80-run stand, peppering the boundary with a flurry of strokes, including nine sixes between them.

Jaiswal anchored the innings with authority, blending elegance with brute force as he struck 10 fours and four sixes, dictating terms from the outset.

Their bowlers then delivered a disciplined effort to restrict Mumbai Indians to 123 for 9.

Under pressure to go over 13 runs an over, Mumbai's chase never really took off. Their top order crumbled. Ryan Rickelton (8), Rohit Sharma (5) and Suryakumar Yadav (6) fell cheaply, leaving MI reeling at 23 for 3 inside the first three overs.

Tilak Varma (14) and skipper Hardik Pandya (9) attempted to rebuild with a few boundaries, but Rajasthan's bowlers maintained tight lines and struck at regular intervals to control the match.

There was a brief lapse in the field, with a couple of misfields and dropped chances, which Sherfane Rutherford capitalised to make a brisk 25 off eight balls.

However, Rajasthan quickly regained control, with Sandeep Sharma lunging forward to complete a stunning low catch to get rid of Rutherford.

Earlier, with the contest reduced to 11 overs a side, Jaiswal came out with clear intent, dismantling Deepak Chahar in the very first over to collect 22 runs with a series of audacious strokes, which included a crisp four through midwicket, a towering six, and three more boundaries that set the tone for the onslaught.

Teen sensation Sooryavanshi matched his senior partner stroke for stroke, showing remarkable composure as he took on Jasprit Bumrah (0/32 in 3 overs), dispatching him for a six before following it up with another towering hit over deep square leg.

Jaiswal welcomed Trent Boult (0/22 in 1) by dispatching him for three sixes, as the duo made full use of the powerplay, racing to 59 in just 3.2 overs in a start that resembled a highlight reel.

While Hardik Pandya (0/17 in 2) managed to slip in a tidy four-run over, the Royals' openers continued to punish anything loose from the MI pacers.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 77, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Tilak b Thakur 39, Dhruv Jurel lbw b Ghazanfar 2, Riyan Parag c Tilak b Ghazanfar 20, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 6. Extras (W-6) 6. **TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 11 overs) 150.**

Fall of wickets: 1-80, 2-84, 3-121.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 1-0-22-0, Jasprit Bumrah 3-0-32-0, Trent Boult 1-0-22-0, Hardik Pandya 2-0-17-0, Shardul Thakur 2-0-36-1, AM Ghazanfar 2-0-21-2.

MUMBAI INDIANS: Ryan Rickelton c Jurel b Archer 8, Rohit Sharma lbw Sandeep Sharma 5, Suryakumar Yadav c Archer b Burger 6, Tilak Varma c Hetmyer b Bishnoi 14, Hardik Pandya c Jaiswal b Bishnoi 9, Naman Dhir c Bishnoi b Burger 25, Sherfane Rutherford c Sandeep b Deshpande 25, Shardul Thakur c Jurel b Sandeep 8, Deepak Chahar (not out) 5, Trent Boult (run out) Archer 1, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5. Extras (W-6, LB-4, B-1) 11. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 11 overs) 123.**

Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-20, 3-22, 4-41, 5-46, 6-93, 7-103, 8-111, 9-116.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 2-0-17-1, Nandre Burger 2-0-21-2, Sandeep Sharma 3-0-26-2, Tushar Deshpande 2-0-29-1, Ravi Bishnoi 2-0-25-2

Result: RR win by 27 runs.

PoM: Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Rajasthan Royals' Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates after scoring a blistering half-century against Mumbai Indians in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Bangla cricket chief sacked, Tamim to lead ad-hoc panel

DHAKA, PTI: Days after the Bangladesh Cricket Board reached out to the BCCI requesting the revival of bilateral ties, former skipper and current president of BCB Aminul Islam Bulbul was on Tuesday removed by the country's National Sports Council (NSC), which formed an ad-hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs till fresh elections are held.

According to sources in the BCB, Bulbul was removed primarily due to the fiasco during the T20 World Cup where erstwhile interim government advisor Asif Nazrul literally held the former skipper hostage and didn't allow the national team to visit India for the global event.

National Sports Council appointed an interim leadership headed by ex-captain Tamim Iqbal.

Anti-India hardliner Nazrul's stand was to shift Bangladesh's games from Kolkata and Mumbai to Sri Lanka as a mark of protest for removal of Mustafizur Rahaman from the IPL.

During the whole issue, Bulbul was a mere bystander and over the past few days, six directors of the BCB resigned because of him.

Former Bangladesh skipper and country's greatest opener Tamim Iqbal has been named as head of the 11-member ad-hoc committee, whose duty would be to hold the cricket board's election in the next 90 days.

Deadly Capitals eye a hat-trick of wins

Focus on in-form Rizvi as DC take on bruised Gujarat Titans

NEW DELHI, PTI

Delhi Capitals will be expecting runs from their KL Rahul-led top-order as they look to maintain their winning momentum against a faltering Gujarat Titans in the IPL here on Wednesday.

Delhi Capitals have had near perfect couple of games with the ball while 22-year-old Sameer Rizvi has been carrying the bulk of their batting load, having come of age early in the season.

If the likes of Rahul and Co get into the groove, the Delhi Capitals will become a more formidable unit.

Rahul can't be blamed for the way he has got out in his first two innings and it is only a matter of time before he finds his consistency.

Nitish Rana would be feeling more pressure having got the opportunity to bat at number three.

Pathum Nissanka found his range in the last game here, giving him additional confidence to take on the Gujarat Titans' pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj in the Powerplay. Having smashed his third IPL fifty in a row (one came last season), Rizvi is on a rampage. He always had the ability to take spinners to the cleaners but he is now able to change gears even against the fast bowlers.

The first half of his innings against Mumbai Indians was rather measured before he went ballistic to script a comfortable win for his team.

Mukesh Kumar has been impressive with the ball while captain Axar Patel has been effective as ever both in the Powerplay and middle overs.

Lungi Ngidi has added depth to the bowling unit which also features T Natarajan and Indian wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Having made just 1 run in two games so far, Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul will be gunning for a big score when they take on Gujarat Titans on Wednesday. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

In contrast, Gujarat Titans are a team that is faltering on both fronts.

Titans have been struggling to shed the top-heavy tag. They should have chased 205 against Rajasthan Royals comfortably but the unproven middle-order could not cash in on the start provided by Sai Sudharsan.

The middle-order comprising Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar and Rahul Tewatia needs to step up under pressure.

Captain Shubman Gill missed the previous game due to a muscle spasm but stand-in skipper Rashid Khan said he should be fine for their crucial fixture against Delhi Capitals.

Having lost their first two games, Titans also need to be more professional in the bowling department. Both Siraj and Rabada have been a tad expensive while Prasidh Krishna has not been consistent enough.

On the brighter side, Rashid has found his rhythm early in the competition but their most impressive bowler has been 23-year-old pacer Ashok Sharma.

The Kotla pitch usually offers plenty of runs but it wasn't the case in the afternoon game last week with Mumbai Indians managing only 162. It remains to be seen how it behaves on what is expected to be an unusually nippy April evening.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	3	3	0	0	6	2.403
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	2	2	0	0	4	2.501
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	1.170
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Lucknow Super Giants	2	1	1	0	2	-0.542
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	0	2	1	1	-1.964
Gujarat Titans	2	0	2	0	0	-0.424
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

We need to fire in all departments, says Klaasen

NEW DELHI, PTI

Dashing former Proteas batter Heinrich Klaasen **(in pic)** feels it is still early days in the tournament for the Sunrisers Hyderabad and is confident that the 2016 IPL champions will fire in all departments going forward after two defeats in their first three games.

SRH lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 6 wickets in their opener and then were humbled by 5 wickets by Lucknow Super Giants in their last game. Their only win -- a 65-run victory -- came against Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Our batting has been good so far, but we missed out about 40 runs in 3 games. We need to bat better. The two games that we struggled, we didn't execute with the bat. The bowlers, especially the pacers, have been fantastic. We need to get to 220-230 mark to give our bowlers a chance of defending," Klaasen told JioStar Press Room ahead of Rivalry Week which is starting from April 12.

"Our fielding has been poor and that's what is affecting us. I will give us 6 out of 10 so far, we played some brilliant cricket in phases but lost out in the crucial phases of the game.

"Bowlers are hanging on as per plan, rest of the batting is doing well. I will give 80 per cent but our fielding needs to improve, we need to hold onto our catches. If you need to go 8-9 in rating, you need to build some momentum, you need to put all three compartments together," he added.

Klaasen, who has retired from all forms of international cricket last year and is now only plying his trade in franchise, struck consecutive fifties for SRH in their last two games, and is happy with his form. "Unfortunately, we lost two games but on a personal note, it was a good start for me especially since I am not playing too much cricket these days. I would like to continue the form," he said.

He is also enjoying his role and responsibilities at the No. 4 position. "It's a role (No. 4) that I had played throughout my whole career. In this role, you need to adapt to the situation, my role in the team is to keep going even if (Ishan) Kishan, Abhishek (Sharma) and Travis Head are going."

David Warner

Warner charged with drink-driving: reports

SYDNEY, AFP: Former Australian opener David Warner has been charged with drink-driving after he was pulled over in Sydney during the weekend, reports said Tuesday.

The 39-year-old, who still plays Twenty20 cricket for franchises around the world, was allegedly at the wheel of a van that stopped and parked short of a random testing site on Sunday.

National broadcaster ABC said officers approached the vehicle and breath-tested Warner who returned a positive result. He was arrested and taken to a local police station where he was charged with mid-range drink driving, ABC and other local media reported. He is due to appear in court on May 7.

Police in a statement outlined the incident but did not name Warner, who retired from international cricket in 2024 after racking up 8,786 runs across his 112 Tests.

He most recently appeared for the Karachi Kings last week in the Pakistan Super League.

BJKC: Unforced errors haunt Vaishnavi as Sahaja trails

NEW DELHI, PTI: Debutant Vaishnavi Adkar cracked under a barrage of unforced errors, slumping to a shock straight-set defeat against Aunchisa Chanta, as rain left India's opening Asia/Oceania Group I tie of the Billie Jean King Cup against Thailand hanging in the balance here on Tuesday.

With Sahaja Yamlapalli locked in a gritty second singles against Patcharin Cheapchandej, the hosts' fate remained uncertain when persistent rain forced play to halt.

Ranked 73 places above her Thai opponent at 383, Vaishnavi went down 1-6, 3-6 in one hour and 13 minutes on the DLTA Centre Court after more than three hours of delay due to drizzle and unusually cool conditions.

The onus then shifted to Sahaja (384), who was trailing 4-6, 6-1, 3-4 against world No. 449 Patcharin when the skies opened up again.

The match will now resume at 11am on Wednesday ahead of India's next fixture against New Zealand at 3pm.

Sahaja fought hard and struck the ball cleanly but lacked variation, allowing Patcharin to dictate key exchanges, especially by targeting the Indian's backhand on serve. The Thai held her nerve better in crunch moments.

Serving to stay in the opening set at 4-5, Sahaja faltered under pressure.

LAND REQUIRED ON LONG LEASE

Two (2) Acre Non-agricultural land, levelled (square/rectangular preferred) with Clear Title, Electricity & Water connection on CHIKKABALLAPUR - DEVANAHALLI Highway or beside 40 feet road, required on lease of 10 years, for a well reputed Logistics Company.

Interested Landowners may contact :
63049 01302

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